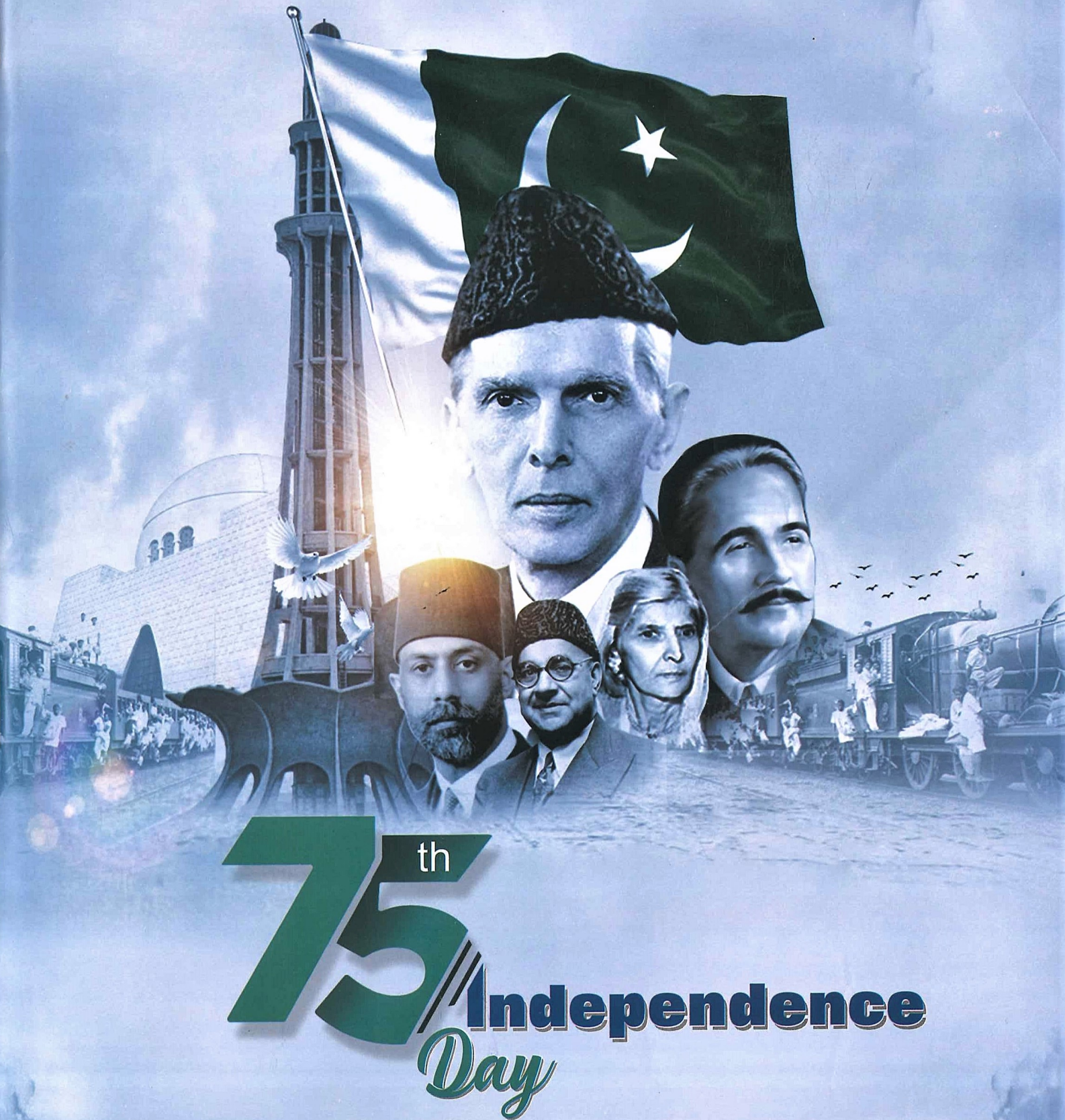


— Build Back Better World —

JAHANGIR'S

VOL14 ISSUE IX AUGUST'21

WORLD TIMES



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EDITORIAL

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Surah-20 Ta Ha/ Ayat 6: To Him belongs what is in the heavens and on earth, and all between them, and all beneath the soil.

Pakistan's Formidable Challenges

Pakistan is going to celebrate its 75th Independence Day this year at a time when the country is faced with unique challenges on both internal and external fronts. These are the testing times that require extreme prudence and wise decision-making by those in corridors of power. On the internal front, the hydra of terrorism is again rearing its ugly head as is evident from the Dasu bus tragedy that devoured the lives of thirteen people, including nine Chinese nationals, two personnel of the Frontier Constabulary (FC), and two locals. As per details, the bus had picked up workers and Chinese engineers from a camp in Barseen, and was heading to an under-construction tunnel site of the \$4.2 billion Dasu hydropower project – a 233-meter-high dam being built on the Indus River, seven kilometers upstream of Dasu town – that is a part of the \$65 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) investment plan. When it came onto the main road, an explosive-laden vehicle manoeuvred itself into the convoy and rammed into the first bus. There was an explosion but no bullet holes were found on the vehicles or IED remnants located at the site. This terrorist attack and the growing number of terrorism incidents and attacks on security forces in the country provide irrefutable evidence that that the country's enemies are actively trying to sabotage Pakistan's journey to progress and prosperity which is imminent in the form of CPEC. It seems that the countries that are not happy with the strong bilateral relations between Pakistan and China are trying to weaken the relationship of the two countries. They were about to achieve their objective as the China Gezhouba Group Corporation (CGGC), the Chinese firm executing the project, terminated the services of all but essential Pakistani workers citing security concerns. However, due to active diplomatic efforts and high-level negotiations, the company declared the notice terminating employees as "null and void" and the work has been resumed. Pakistan Army has also assured China of full support and cooperation and security of Chinese citizens working in Pakistan.

In addition, the 'abduction' and 'severe torture' of the Afghan ambassador's daughter, Ms Silsila Alikhil, in Islamabad also exposes the nefarious designs of Pakistan's enemies. The statement by Sheikh Rashid Ahmad, the federal minister for interior, on the case that "intelligence agencies had thoroughly investigated the incident and checked the relevant CCTV footage but no evidence was found that she was abducted" shows how India is trying to spoil the reputation of Pakistan's security system.

Although the enemies failed in achieving their goals, these two incidents exposed an acute lack of coordination among various ministries of the federal government. For instance, in the Dasu case, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi termed it "an accident" and said that the Chinese nationals died because their van had fallen into a ravine. But, Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Fawad Chaudhry, said that "terrorism cannot be ruled out" in the Dasu bus as "[I]nitial investigations... have now confirmed traces of explosives." This non-serious behavior, despite the fact that it was related to a project that is extremely high profile, is alarming.

Mishandling of the case of the Afghan ambassador's daughter as the girl's version was based on some unusual events in a period of high-security alert. But, the institutions here handling this case never brought the matter out in public in a systematic and organized manner which could also have raised valid questions regarding this entire episode.

On the external front, the looming completion of the withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan and the repercussions of the imminent civil war in Afghanistan is the biggest challenge Pakistan is faced with at present. As the dominance of the Taliban is unacceptable to a significant cross-section of the Afghan population including powerful segments of the Afghan society, there is all likelihood of a spike in violence. Despite the recent talks in Doha between the Afghan government and the Taliban, the prospects of a peaceful end to the war are grim. The brunt of instability in Afghanistan would fall directly on Pakistan because peace in the two countries is directly interlinked. In the words of Maj Gen Babar Iftikhar, the Director-General of Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the challenges for Pakistan include the re-emergence of terrorist organizations' sleeper cells due to the ongoing Afghan conflict and "restoration of terrorist groups in Balochistan that can nexus with hostile agencies." He also said, "We have fought a long and trying war with terrorism and have gotten countless successes in it. We will not allow our hard-earned gains to be wasted."

The spillover of the internal conflict in Afghanistan would result in an influx of thousands of refugees trying to enter Pakistan. This would have serious consequences for our economy and political stability. Although the Pakistan army has fenced the Western border — a remarkable feat considering the terrain and security challenges, and strengthened its border force, still the danger remains. Instability in Afghanistan will also continue to hold back already delayed collaborative projects with Central Asian nations like the TAPI pipeline or CASA-1000. As far as profitable infrastructure with the neighbours is concerned, Pakistan hasn't been able to move ahead except in the case of minor ones, like the recently established markets at the Pakistan-Iran border.

The US, for its part, may be out of Afghanistan but not out of the game. A recent report by the Central Asia-Caucasus Analyst stated that US presence in Central Asia has increased in the wake of the withdrawal and that its objectives in doing so include balancing Chinese and Russian influence in addition to keeping the Taliban in check.

In these chaotic times, Pakistan needs to adopt a two-pronged strategy in order to see its geo-economic ambitions to fruition. First, Pakistan should play a leading role in stabilizing Afghanistan and second, it should secure trade routes to Central Asia. Efforts to restore SAARC and improve ties with India should also be launched as prolonged distrust has kept regional development and integration from reaching its true potential. In this regard, greater inter-institutional coordination led by the Prime Minister's Office, the Foreign Office, NSA and all security stakeholders is a must to develop a clear strategic outlook and plan on how to proceed.

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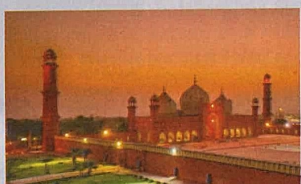
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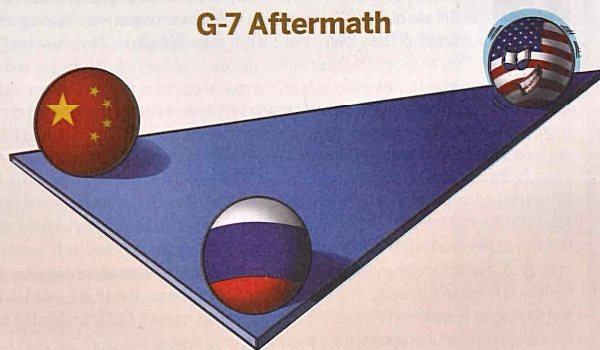
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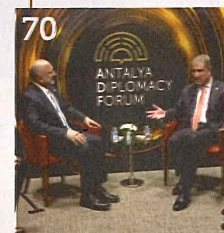
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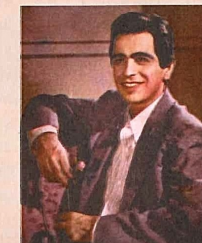
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LETTER to the EDITOR

Falling FDI

According to media reports, foreign direct investment (FDI) in Pakistan fell about 29 percent year-on-year as the last fiscal drew to a close. It was up year-on-year in April and May — in the latter a good 63 percent — but then it just plunged, for some reason, about 23 percent in June and dragged the annual figure well into the red. The state bank still sits atop foreign exchange reserves that are at a five-year high, but it would still be wrong not to worry about the fluctuations in the FDI graph. The SBP needs to find out the reasons behind this fall so that the economic gains made during the last few quarters are not wasted.

Muzaffar Hussain
Astoria

Hindutva Terror

In the seventh review of the global counterterrorism strategy, the Hindutva ideology has been recognised as a form of religious terrorism. A resolution to this effect has also been adopted by the UN General Assembly. One wonders why it took so long for this ideology to be designated in this list. There was no hesitancy whatsoever in the case of equating Islam with terrorism, essentializing a significant part of the world population — the consequences of which continue to impact the lives of Muslims all over the world. Pak-India relations have always been strained, but the ideological underpinnings of the current BJP government do not just pose a threat to Pakistan, but also to the rest of the region. The recent surge in terrorist attacks in Pakistan and the oppression being carried out in Kashmir is a practical manifestation of the Hindutva ideology. President Arif Alvi's remarks about how Hindutva ideology will continue to strain relations with Pakistan and ultimately lead to internal strife in India serve as a timely reminder of the perils of an ideology based on racism and hate. In addition, Islamophobia has also been included in this list — another diplomatic victory for Pakistan. The issue of Islamophobia has been on the rise in India, particularly since the Modi government came into power. Pakistan must capitalise on this momentum and ensure that the international community does not continue to turn a blind eye to the oppression being carried out against Muslims in India and IIOJK.

Zahid Hussain
Charsadda

Fastest Internet Speed

Japan's National Institute of Information and Communications Technology has set a new world record for the fastest internet speed — as astounding 319 terabytes per second. This is almost double the last record of the fastest internet speed in the world held by researchers from the University College of London — The speed was 178 Tbps. To achieve this speed, the team used a 552-channel comb laser and beamed it at multiple wavelengths to initiate the data exchange. It further used rare earth mineral amplifiers to sustain the data at this speed for a prolonged, simulated distance. What's encouraging is that the 319 Tbps data transmission was clearly doable and durable too. It's important to note, however, that this technology isn't cheap. The researchers state that they expect this sort of technology to be used in areas such as long range industrial data transmission, such as terrestrial space exploration data exchanges, which may require super instantaneous data exchanges of vast troves of data to increase the efficiency of missions.

Noor Tabassum
Sialkot

Delta Variant and Pakistan

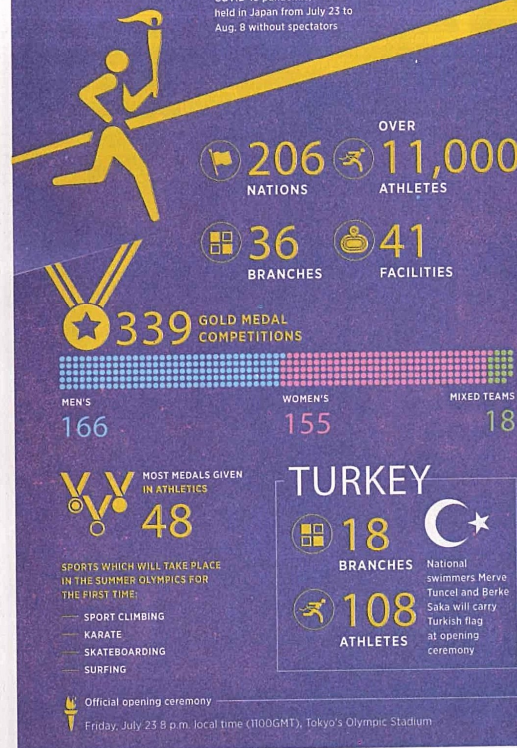
As the Delta variant is turning out to be a cause of grave concern in Pakistan, the governments of Sindh and Gilgit-Baltistan have taken drastic steps for lockdown measures. Although these may be difficult to absorb for a great number of businesses, they remain vital for public safety. While the national positivity average hovers around 6%, the 25% rate in Karachi is unprecedented, with hospitals unable to cope with the additional burden. Similarly, an approximately 9% rate for Gilgit-Baltistan is equally concerning. Notably, just 3.2% of Pakistan's population has been fully vaccinated yet. This slow vaccination process is because of a number of factors especially conspiracy theories and general hesitation. A lax attitude on the part of sections of the public is also contributing to the staggering rise in number of cases as unvaccinated people are going out and about without realising the consequences. While vaccination does not ensure total immunity, it does help reduce the chances of fatalities despite some rare exceptions. Even SOPs are being ignored in large number of places which the authorities need to be strict about. A lot of efforts are required to contain this menace of a pandemic which is here to stay for longer than expected. Reportedly, domestic air travel is being conditioned with full vaccination from August. This is a step in the right direction for the greater good of the public which needs to cooperate with state authorities. Though a bit late to the vaccination rollout plan, the arrival of Moderna and Pfizer vaccines is a great sign for international travellers. This would assist them in securing quarantine exemptions in tourism and business-oriented countries.

Urooj Zahra
Karachi

WORLD'S BIGGEST SPORTS FESTIVAL

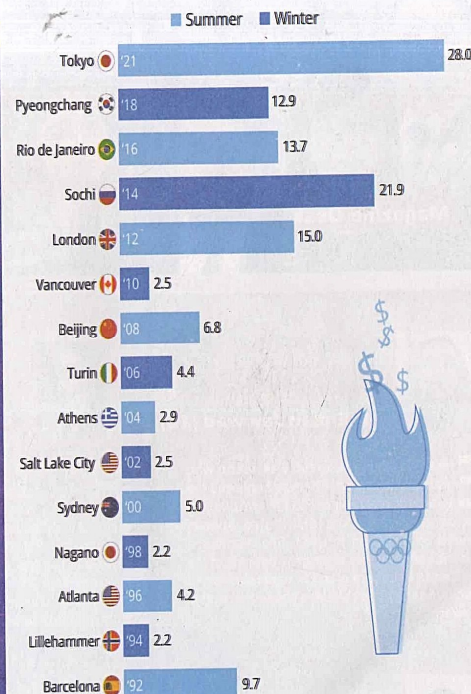
2020 Tokyo Olympics

The 2020 Tokyo Olympics, postponed last year due to COVID-19 pandemic, will be held in Japan from July 23 to Aug. 8 without spectators



The Massive Costs Behind The Olympic Games

Cost of hosting the Olympic Games since 1992 (billion U.S. dollars)*

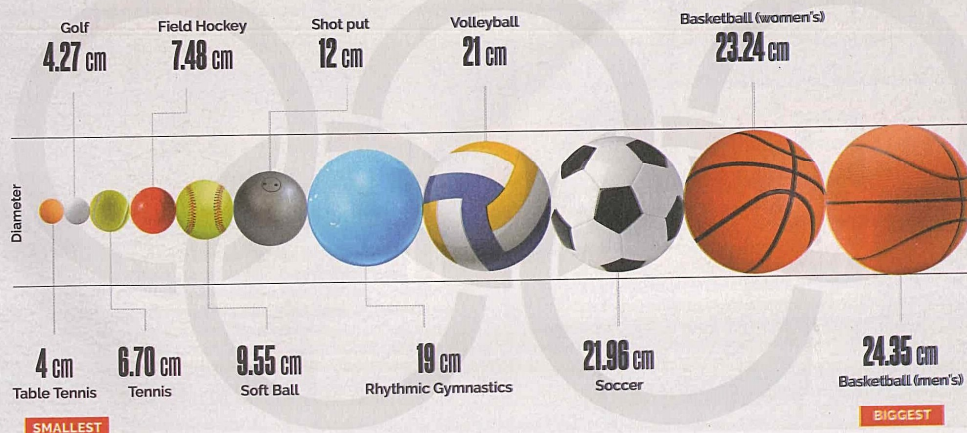


* In 2015 dollars with the exception of Pyeongchang (2018) and Tokyo (2021). Tokyo value is an estimate.



SPORTS BALL SIZE COMPARISON

BALLS AND SPHERES USED IN THE SUMMER OLYMPICS



Winners of the Diana Awards 2021



Magazine Desk



Eight Pakistani youths recently made a record by winning the prestigious Diana Award 2021 for their creative works and outstanding efforts in various sectors. These young Pakistani awardees, hailing from different parts of the country, stand tall among the inspirational people, after clinching the prestigious award. The winners of the Award include three girls – Ayesha Sheikh, Eiman Jawwad, and Yumna Majeed, and five boys including Zubair Junjuna, Izzat-Ullah, Muhammad Asim Masoom Zubair, Hassan Ashraf and Muhammad Hamza Waseem.



1. Eiman Jawwad (16)

Eiman is the youngest Pakistani who grabbed the award. She was conferred the award for reaching out to Lahore's largest burn centre, where she distributed special garments to everyone in need. She distributed thousands of garments among the patients of the Burn Centre in Lahore and it is in recognition of her unique service that she was chosen to receive this award.



6. M. Asim Masoom
Zubair (24)

Hailing from Bahawalpur, Asim was bestowed the honour for working as a front-line healthcare professional during the outbreak of Covid-19 in the beginning. He produced more than 5,000 bottles of hand sanitizers to contain the spread of the pandemic. He has also represented Pakistan at the United Nations as a youth ambassador.



2. Ayesha Sheikh (17)

Hailing from Sukkur, Ayesha received her award for promoting quality education, health and producing solutions for sustainability in communities. Ayesha had also represented Pakistan at various international forums in the near past. She worked as an active team member of the Royal Entrepreneurs, while organizing students and youth conferences, human rights and women empowerment campaigns.



5. Izzat-Ullah (23)

Belonging to Quetta, Izzat-Ullah was honoured for supporting and providing consultancy to over 5,000 youths, as a career counsellor. He devised a comprehensive plan and made fruitful campaigns amid the Covid-19 pandemic in Balochistan. He provided stipend and scholarships to 3,000 students, amid the pandemic and provided food rations to more than 1,000 families.



3. Yumna Majeed (23)

An inspirational youth from Lahore, Yumna received the award for her contribution to making space science and space education fashionable in Pakistan, while visiting more than 30 schools and conducting over 50 sessions. She inspired thousands of people to take an interest in space sciences and astronomy, including more than 5,000 children.



4. Zubair Junjuna (23)

Zubair received the award for setting up a blog for exams to share the resources he prepared for his own exams, completely free-of-cost. His high-quality and concise revision educational notes were discovered by the students across the globe and as a result, 'Znotes' was born. Today, with hundreds of contributors, 'Znotes' has passed 21 million hits with around 3 million unique visitors.



7. M. Hamza Waseem (24)

Hamza got the award for his collaboration work on a student-run magazine 'Spectra' during 2017 and onward, publishing around 225 science articles. He mentored more than 200 students in science-journalism. He had the honour of organizing a mega public science festival in Pakistan, titled: 'Lahore Science Mela', which was attended by more than 60,000 people.

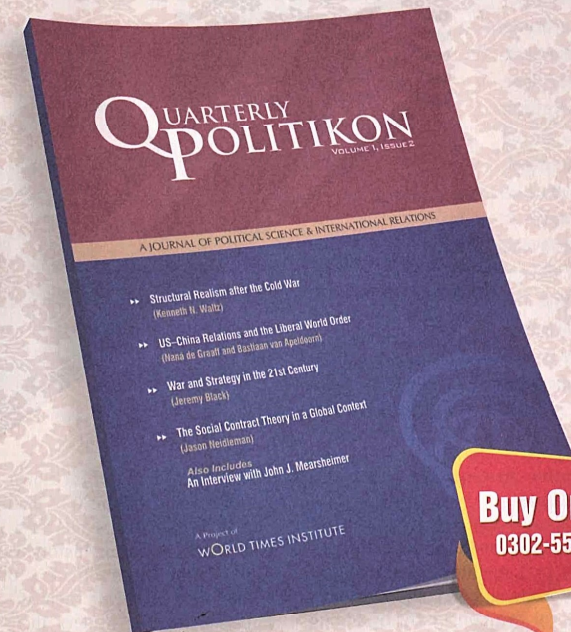


8. Hassan Ashraf (25)

Hailing from Faisalabad, Hassan received the award for his 'Not-for-profit' organisation 'UMEED'. The organization has helped spread the network of around 20 branches, educating more than 1,500 children, globally. During the pandemic, Hassan also fundraised for and coordinated the distribution of ration bags and cash to over 6,000 impacted families.

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The world around us is constantly changing and global scholarship on major global issues is growing exponentially. The knowledge of the past and present, theoretical and empirical, about global systems and communities in tiny states, about matters of wars and peace, of democracy and tyranny, about philosophy and strategy has enriched the global understanding and knowledge. However, this expanded knowledge has also created a predicament for students and practitioners about the need to read high quality and relevant articles. For this purpose, quality articles, interviews and book reviews related to subject of International Relations and Political Science have been collected from multiple sources and compiled in Quarterly Politikon: A Journal of Political Science and International Relations. This journal is not only useful for CSS/PMS aspirants but also equally valuable for academics (Researchers) engaged in Colleges/Universities and National Security Institutions.

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"Has civilization taught us to be more friendly towards one another?" Asked Bertrand Russell, the British philosopher and intellectual, in his "Ideas that Have Helped Mankind". He explained further: "... Within the herd we are more friendly to each other than are many species of animals, but in our attitude towards those outside the herd, in spite of all that has been done by moralists and religious teachers, our emotions are as ferocious as those of any animal, and our intelligence enables us to give them a scope which is denied to even the most savage beast." It may be hoped, though not very confidently, that the more humane attitude will in time come to prevail, but so far the omens are not very propitious.

G7 AFTERMATH

Western Leaders in
Search of
New Animosities



Mahboob Khawaja, PhD



To Recall Active Attendance of Former British Colonialism

The G-7 used to be the G-8 - inclusive of Russia - but it shrank to being the "West and America First," and anything else is a matter of opinion to be relevant for global peace and harmony. We the People of the world are constantly becoming victims of modern ignorance, rooted insolence of withered expectations and growing indifference to much-desired international cooperation and working together for peace, intelligence and goodness of humanity. While the masses, who are victimized by the atrocities of the 'few against all' war, are not the means to peacemaking and cutting short stupidity and evil-mongering against the global mankind - the real inhabitants of the Earth and extended universal harmony. Will rationality teach the global leaders to realize the unthinkable horrors and devastations caused by nuclear arsenals and space weaponry hidden from the public eye, and to contemplate a world of harmony



different from that of their own mindset? Not so; the G-7 leaders and their supporters met at a British island as if once again history was witnessing loyalist thumb-lickers of colonialism gathered to subscribe their allegiance to Western imperialism. The leaders included those of former subjects of British colonialism: America, India, South Africa, Japan under the US control after the Second World War, Australia, Canada, the EU and, of course, the Secretary General of the United Nations had to be there to be included in the reports and final communiqué to remain collectively relevant to the news-watchers. None had the vision of a sustainable future that will gather momentum for a universal accord, and not to perpetuated animosities. The Carbis Bay gathering looked more like a prelude to some ideological planning for militarism rather than dealing with the unusual human emergencies caused by Covid-19 pandemic and its widespread suspicions, pains and

impacts beyond known human capacity to absorb for public normalcy across the globe.

Leaders Disconnected to Future-making of Global Mankind

The Western leaders are at a critical juncture after collapse of the American democracy which happened on January 6 with Trump-planned attack at the Capitol in Washington DC to thwart a peaceful transfer of power to then President-elect Joe Biden and restoration and continuity of liberal democracy. The leaders seem to worship the form and ignore the essence of reality - the challenges to working of democracy in the Western hemisphere. The G-7 gathering echoed the usual outburst of blame games against the rising global



influence of China and Russia as formidable challenges to Western democracies. Were colonialism and imperialism part of the Western democracies at any time of the formative history?

They led massive military campaigns against the poor, vulnerable and less developed human societies, and subjected them to prolonged pains, horrors, killings and imposed foreign cultures and thinking on the hapless humanity. This was the networking of the so-called Western nations

claiming to be relevant for democratic norms in the 21st century of knowledge and wisdom.

Islam is a living force, but Muslim and especially Arab leaders are dead entities, dismantled puppets who are breathing oxygen for their survival at the mercy of America and former British colonialism. The Arabian Peninsula is submerged into moral and intellectual chaos, being incapacitated and unable to think for the future. America will egg Israel on to take initiatives for more control of the oil-pumping nations. Palestine, Kashmir, human rights, social justice, Black Lives

Matter and equality of humanity - the real global issues - are discarded because there are no intelligent Muslim leaders; there are dead-ended princes, kings and dictators who forge alliances with the Western militarized nations.

We the People wish to rejoice truth, not evil. Western colonialism was built on vices of dehumanization of millions and millions of human beings throughout Asia and Africa and Central Asia. Was the G-7 gathering an exposition of a hybrid culture - part human and part culture - to mislead the conscientious global humanity? To a critical observer and peace-maker, the G-7 leaders failed to come up with any reasoned plan for change, global peace and cooperation across the board. It was a gathering just to appease Biden or to one another for being active in compelling global developments. The G-7 leaders' unexcitable shadows on the beach of Cornwall ended without any strength, good wishes for human serenity, and led to the clouds of suspicion for an unattainable future of confrontations with China, Russian and all living men of ideas. William Boardman, in his "A Country at War with an Illusion," noted the same several years ago: "We have now been at war for well over a decade", the president said in a statement so simple and broad as to include all the devastation we've wrought in Iraq and



Afghanistan to so little useful effect, right down to the latest drone strike against some person we decided fits today's enemy combatant profile."

That much is obvious to almost everyone. Less obvious is that the same war has been turned inward, waged against Americans at home - increasingly prisoners of the homeland and increasingly surrounded by homeland security, whether needed or not. The unchecked expansion of policing entities since 9/11, too vast to be easily or briefly described, continues unchecked, because we are at war ...

In Search of Competent

Moral and Intellectual Leadership for Future-making

We the People observe increasing political cynicism and indifference as part of global leadership across continents. The ideals of harmonious and sustainable societies do not come out of perpetuated foolishness and animosities if the leaders knew what happened during the previous Two World Wars. The need for a reasoned dialogue between the economically and militarily active nations is the secret of peace and articulating a sustainable global peace and future for all. Sanctity of human life and preservation of the planet is vital at all times and in all policymaking and global consensus. Should the leaders go on a ride out in space to learn the reality of our lives and a peaceful future of all human beings? What if Russia and China were invited to be part of the G-9, rather than G-7? Would the earth have trembled or would the Western war machines collapsed from its superior manufacturing agenda capacity and active warmongering across the Middle East? Imagine if President Putin and President Xi Jinping were at the meeting, would it not have enhanced the imagination for a better world of understanding? The world of reason should not be tainted by ideological warfare or dictates of capitalism, communism or socialism or any other viable ideals, so to speak. Often, politically aligned thoughts in Europe and America have

ignored the humanitarian vitality of China and Russia for convenient political expediency. There appears to be a lot of conjures to be cleaned and clarified for change and a new world order of collaboration and help when it is most needed beyond national flags and borders of the G-7 nations.

We the People uphold this ideal that leadership based on knowledge and wisdom, and representing the interest of larger mankind will lead us to human unity, benevolence, social justice, equality and global harmony, and certainly not to malignity, tyranny and neo-colonization. To

make the global humanity peaceful and collaborative, the Western nations must think of unity and not of military confrontations, new animosities and economic warfare - We the People cannot imagine another "war of all against all," unless we have lost the commonsense and rationality of human unity for the good of all. ■

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China and Russia have injected positive energy into the international community through their close cooperation, as the world is entering a period of turbulence and change and human development is confronted with multiple crises.

— Chinese President Xi Jinping

said when holding talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin via video link



CPC
at
100
1921 2021

Amanat Ali Chaudhry



History of the Communist Party of China, popularly known as the CPC, is well recorded and different scholars have divided it into various phases according to each one's own perception and understanding. I would like to divide it into following five phases:

1. 1921-1949: Establishment of the party - Liberation of China
2. 1949-1976: Consolidation of power, national construction on "self-reliance" basis, Cultural Revolution, smashing of the Gang of Four
3. 1976-1998: Introduction of open-door policy and economic reforms, establishment of SEZs and open coastal cities
4. 1998-2012: Consolidation and acceleration of economic reforms and open door policy
5. 2012-2021: Launching of anti-corruption drive, expansion of market economy with Chinese characteristics, Belt and Road Initiative, poverty alleviation, the projection of a nationalistic and assertive China on the world stage

The year 1976 is a very important year in China's recent history. Deaths of Premier Zhou Enlai, Marshal Zhu De, Chairman Mao Zedong and massive earthquake in Tangshan were of great significance which saddened the entire nation. Party leadership very wisely handled the internal crisis and decided to end the isolation, adopt open door policy and gradually introduce economic reforms.

"Re-emergence" of Chairman Deng Xiaoping at the helm of affairs of the Party marked the beginning of a new era of "opening up" and "economic reforms". Instead of blindly following any of the existing models of economic systems and economic reforms, CPC decided to adopt a cautious approach.

Transition was not easy and smooth and it encountered

multidimensional problems within the party and also in the society at large. Not to mention the external problems. Deng Xiaoping's 1992 southern tour reinforced the determination for reforms and opening up program.

CPC leadership developed a unique mechanism of internal discussion and regular multilayer review of the policies being implemented. Immediate adjustments were made to make the policies more attractive, investor-friendly, practical and suitable for China.

The period between 1977 and 1982 and later from 1988 to 1991, witnessed the comprehensive infrastructure development, construction of roads, rail, air and sea ports, and high-rise buildings at a speed, which was unbelievable. With the encouragement of relevant government departments, number of privately owned and run street vendors and companies were rapidly increasing all over.

This economic development would never have been possible without the correct party leadership and its unique policies of market economy with "Chinese characteristics". It may not be easy for an outsider to fully comprehend the word "Chinese Characteristics" without basic understanding of Chinese social values and governance system.

Patriotism, hard work, complete faith, trust and confidence in CPC leadership is the driving force behind China's economic miracle. A sense of participation in the national development was visible everywhere and each individual was working hard in whatever capacity or position, in accordance with the guidelines provided by the party and the state. This made possible smooth implementation of the economic reforms without endangering the basic political model.

Fundamental tenet of CPC is to serve people of all nationalities wholeheartedly. CPC leadership at every level is always close to masses hence enjoys their trust and confidence. During the past few decades comprehen-

sive increase in living standards and disposable income of the people, uplifting of more than 800 million people from poverty line, better health and education facilities, substantial increase in average life expectancy, attention to environmental issues, highest foreign exchange reserves in the world, becoming of the world's second largest economy, advance scientific and technological innovations including 5 G technology, space missions, AI are just a few examples of the achievements of the Chinese people under CPC leadership.

Effective and swift handling of natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes and, most recently, Covid-19 further enhanced the confidence of the people in the party and its leadership.

Belt and Road initiative is an expression of China's desire of a "community with a shared destiny for mankind". China is not only ready to share its successful experience of economic and technological development but also to provide necessary financial resource and transfer of technology.

During recent spread of Covid-19 pandemic, despite difficulties at home, so far, China is the only country which has not only provided necessary medical supplies but also vaccine to almost 100 countries/areas.

Under CPC leadership, China's foreign policy is based on "five principles of peaceful coexistence" and by strictly adhering to these principles, China has earned the respect of the global community.

In short, during a period of 100 years, CPC freed the country after long struggle with internal and external forces, established Peoples Republic of China, overcame the initial difficulties including frictions within the party, faced global isolation and sanctions but survived.

By following the principal of "self-reliance," it regained its position in the community of nations. Within a short period of time, Peoples Republic of China became the



Structure of China's Communist Party

Since the founding of the Chinese Communist Party in July 1921, it has grown to almost 92 million members, representing 6.6 per cent of China's total population

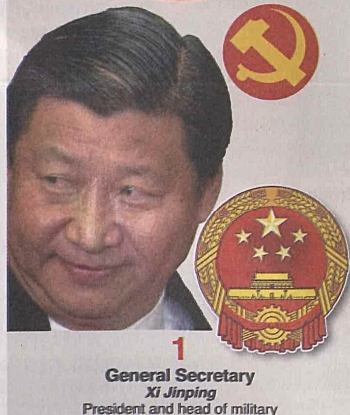
Population
1.397 billion
(World Bank estimate, 2019)

91.9m

6.6%

Men
66.3m

Women
25.6m



1
General Secretary
Xi Jinping
President and head of military

second largest economy in the world and lifted 800 million people out of poverty. No one doubts that targets set by the CPC leadership in 14th Five Year Plan (2021-2025) will be achieved, laying a solid foundation for a moderately developed country.

The key to success of the CPC is flexibility of its policies with the sole objective of making the country strong and prosperous, ensure wellbeing of its citizens, and play an active and due role for global peace and development.

The CPC Central Committee celebrated the 100 years of the founding of the Party and held several high-profile events. The World Political Parties Summit was one major flagship event that brought together over 20 heads of government and state, representatives of 500 political organizations from across 160 countries and over 10,000 senior CPC delegates.

The importance of the CPC Summit lay in the fact that this global moot was held in the backdrop of the G7 Conference, and NATO Summit in which US President Joe Biden made competition with China the foremost subject of his discussions with his NATO and European allies.

President Xi Jinping, who is also General Secretary of the Party, used his keynote address at the CPC Summit to send a broader

message to an attentive world.

The Summit underlined the theme of people's wellbeing as the foremost responsibility of the political parties around the world to emphasize the importance of making the process of development participatory and inclusive. This indicated that the development gap between the Global North and South is increasing that can only be bridged if political parties prioritize the pro-people policies.

Reiterating his idea of creating a community of shared interests, President Xi Jinping democratized the notion of development and growth, calling it a right of every nation and not an exclusive privilege of the select few. He made it clear that no country or nation deserves to be left behind on the path to development.

"We need to enable all countries to step up development cooperation and see to it that the fruits of development are shared by all," Xi urged the participants of the summit.

Without naming any names, the Chinese leader furthered the idea of multilateralism and urged the world that "we should be opposed to the practice of unilateralism disguised as multilateralism and say no to hegemony and power politics."

Indirectly responding to the criticism of China's increasing global footprint, President Xi rejected any notion that his country was seeking hegemony, expansion or extending its sphere of influence. A noteworthy point was his declaration that Beijing will remain part of the developing world, working for a rules-based international order through mutual consensus and cooperation.

Pitching the successes of the CPC in terms of poverty-reduction as a role model for the world, the Party's General Secretary expressed his readiness to share CPC's experience with the rest of the world. He proudly mentioned how the CPC worked hard to lift 98.88 million rural people from extreme poverty since 2012, an achievement that enabled China to meet SDG targets ten years ahead of the 2030 deadline. He also assured more cooperation for the availability of

Covid-19 vaccines to the developing countries.

President Xi used his emphasis on multilateralism as a foil to highlight how the US under Trump retreated into a cocoon of 'America first'. Leaving nothing to imagination as to who he was referring to, he stated: "Looking at the angle of 'My Country First', the world is narrow and crowded and often full of fierce competition." He also called for rejection of countries that promoted the idea of 'technology blockades' and engaged in 'developmental decoupling.'

The CPC Summit was an instance of political diplomacy to reiterate China's positions on issues that not only matter to Beijing but also to the wider world. The new party-to-party relationship that the CPC Central Committee seeks to forge with the political organizations around the world is defined by a conscious policy to base the ties on the

foundations of shared interests.

In exploring the ways and means to strengthen linkages with friendly countries including parliamentary, educational and cultural exchanges and avenues for win-win partnerships, the CPC has a stellar record of public service that supports its credentials for such joint undertakings.

The renewed push for a greater international visibility of the CPC is driven by the need for responding to the criticism it has faced particularly from the Western countries. It is eager to project its people-centric development model to kill what it terms as propaganda. Amid serious threats to the rules-based order, China is continuously urging the world to promote multilateral approach and economic globalisation as building blocks for strong and responsive global institutions.

The World Political Parties Summit reiterated the call to privilege cooperation over confrontation, this time with a robust support from a wide community of world leaders and political organizations. ■

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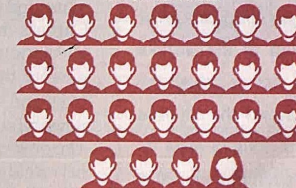
Politburo Standing Committee

In rank order: Xi Jinping, Li Keqiang, Li Zhanshu, Wang Yang, Wang Huning, Zhao Leji, Han Zheng

25

Politburo

Includes just one woman, **Sun Chunlan**, in Political Bureau



375

Central Committee

— 204 members and 171 alternate members

2,300

National Party Congress

Held every five years. 19th National Congress in 2017 brought together 2,287 delegates to rubber stamp Chinese Communist Party decisions

CHINA'S POVERTY-ALLEVIATION MIRACLE

Some glimpses from the report titled
"Chinese Poverty Alleviation Studies:
A Political Economy Perspective"

Shafqat Javed

Poverty is a chronic affliction of human society and a common challenge faced by the whole world. Poverty and its associated problems, including hunger, diseases and social conflicts, are serious impediments to people's pursuit of a better life, so the eradication of poverty has always been a wish to be fulfilled. The history of humankind is the history of relentless struggle against poverty. China – home to nearly one fifth of the world's population – won this battle in 2020. The victory solved the historical problem of penury that has plagued the Chinese nation for thousands of years and saw the country meet its poverty-alleviation targets under the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of schedule. Poverty-alleviation in China has gone beyond the established theories of classic textbooks, and China's eradication of absolute poverty on such a large scale is a first in history. This milestone calls for a new approach in understanding more precisely the country's methods in ending deprivation. China's successful poverty-alleviation practices have given birth to a new field this report calls "Chinese Poverty Alleviation Studies." The following piece contains some glimpses into the report.

Nearly 100 million people have been lifted out of poverty over the past eight years, and nearly 800 million people over the past 40-plus years under China's policy of reform and opening up. The campaign to end deprivation has been the largest and toughest battle of its kind in human history. China's history-making success in poverty alleviation has gone beyond established anti-poverty theories and can provide fresh perspectives and experiences for the global fight against poverty, said a research paper released recently. The poverty, reduction miracle has given birth to a new field of study, according to the report titled "Chinese Poverty Alleviation Studies: A Political Economy Perspective" released by New China Research, the think tank of Xinhua News Agency. The report, drawing on Chinese President Xi Jinping's discourses on poverty alleviation as the ideological and theoretical foundations, decodes the "winning formula" in China's anti-poverty fight, explores the rationale behind the fight and discusses its global implications. "Based on our national conditions and following the law of poverty reduction, China has adopted a series of extraordinary policies and measures, and constructed a whole set of systems covering policy,

work and institutions, blazing a poverty-reduction path and forming an anti-poverty theory with Chinese characteristics," it cited Xi as saying. The report summarized Xi's discourses on poverty alleviation as "seven upholds": upholding the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC), a people-centric approach, joint actions to tackle challenges, a strategy for precision, self-reliance, shared development, and a realistic and pragmatic approach.

THE "WINNING FORMULA"

Over the past eight years, China's final 98.99 million impoverished rural residents living under the current poverty line have all been lifted out of poverty. The country has met the poverty-eradication target set in the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of schedule.

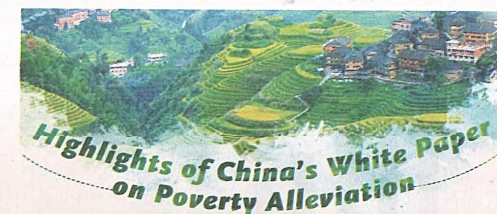
A "winning formula" in China's poverty-alleviation efforts was holding onto positive dialectical thinking and improving the pro-poor market mechanism under the guidance of the government, said the report.

In China, the "burden" of poverty has been turned into a source of potential, and human and natural resources in poor areas have become a means to achieving common development and prosperity.

By capitalizing on local natural resources, many poverty-stricken areas have developed various businesses and subsequently boosted local economic growth and created job opportunities, the report finds.

From a political economy perspective, a key approach of China's poverty reduction is to maintain the goal of national common prosperity by building a "pro-poor market" in which the government, market and society jointly work to emancipate the productivity of the poor, and make them contributors to growth.

In precise poverty alleviation, the "visible hand" of a capable government is not a "restless hand" but an



98.99 million rural residents,
832 poor counties and 128,000 poor villages
have been lifted out of extreme poverty since 2012



770 million+ Chinese people have been
lifted out of poverty over the past 40 years, con-
tributing over **70%** to global poverty alleviation

Per capita disposable
income of the rural poor
¥6,079
in 2013

¥12,588
(\$1,922)
in 2020

1.1 million km
of highways have been
reconstructed in poor
areas by the end of 2020



60.98 million impover-
ished people have been covered
by basic pension schemes for
rural & non-working urban residents

99.9%+ of
the impoverished
is now covered by
basic medical insurance

9.6 million impoverished
people have been relocated from
harsh living environments to

2.66 million
government-subsidized
homes

94.8% of students in rural
poor counties have completed
the nine-year compulsory
education in 2020

382 million rural
population have been ben-
efited from the program
of safe drinking water

1,800+ Party members and officials have
lost their lives in the fight against poverty

Success Secrets

Sufficient Funds Earmarked for Poverty Relief

China has allotted significant resources for large-scale poverty-alleviation efforts. Nearly 1.6 trillion yuan of fiscal funds have been invested into poverty alleviation over the past eight years, of which 660.1 billion yuan came from the central government. Substantial fund supplies have provided strong guarantee for China's winning the battle against poverty. In addition, through extensive mobilization and online technologies, China has guided social resources for poverty alleviation. For example, through the Social Participation in Poverty Alleviation and Development of China website, a bridge has been built between social participants and poor households to form a new "Internet Plus" poverty-alleviation ecosystem. Since the beginning of 2019, at least 500 billion yuan has been spent on purchasing agricultural products from poor areas across China.

Flexible and Organized Resource Allocation

China has allocated resources to households through decentralizing approval authority, and dispatching helping cadres and supervisory forces. Since 2015, China has decentralized the approval authority for the vast majority of poverty-alleviation projects to the counties, where county governments can use them according to local conditions.

From 2016 through September 2020, annual poverty-alleviation funds for 832 poverty-stricken counties increased from tens of millions of yuan before the policy shift to 360 million yuan. Dispatched poverty-alleviation cadres in villages serve as the "pipes" to funnel poverty-alleviation resources. Based on their feedback, the Chinese government can allocate resources via the cadres to each household like making precise "drip irrigation."

China has also improved its supervision and management regime. Supervisors have been dispatched to the grass-roots level to oversee poverty alleviation and curb corruption. The amount of disciplinary violations detected by audits dropped from 25.8 percent of sampled funds in 2016 to 1.5 percent in 2019, and the proportion of serious disciplinary violations such as embezzlement dropped to 0.19 percent.

How has China, a country "clearing the last mile" of its poverty alleviation efforts, achieved an effective interaction between the state and "active and involved citizens"? Neither the "big push and balanced growth" theory nor the "critical minimum effort" theory offers a perfect answer. The history of

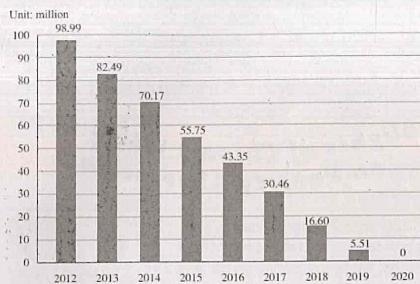


Figure 1 Number of Rural Residents in Poverty (2012-2020)

essential "enabling hand," the report said, noting that an effective pro-poor market is not a distortion of the market, but a reconstruction of the market. Private enterprises, social organizations, and individual citizens are the three new forces of poverty-alleviation work in China, while wealthy locals, migrant workers and businessmen, and college graduates from poor areas in China have also played significant roles, the report noted.

POWERFUL CULTURAL DRIVE

Throughout China's poverty fight runs the Chinese traditional culture of helping the poor and those in need, as well as a "world sentiment" that calls for the building of a community with a shared future for humanity, according to the report.

Throughout the 5,000-year history of Chinese civilization, the idea of common prosperity has been regarded as a quality of an ideal society, it said.

China is not only a modern success, but also an outstanding ancient civilization. China must build its future without abandoning its past, observes Amartya Sen, the Nobel laureate in economics.

The report stressed that China's poverty-alleviation experience and programs, based on practice and extensive international exchanges, have not only advanced poverty-alleviation and development theories, but also reflected a "world sentiment" of building a community with a shared future for humanity.

Such a "world sentiment" has long been an important value for China to follow in promoting the cause of global poverty alleviation. China is committed to reaching out to others and helping the world.

This "global view," which transcends ideology, the nation-state and political parties, is a "Chinese proposal" for promoting the cause of poverty reduction in the world, it said.

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE WORLD

Calling China a "learner, beneficiary and innovator of global poverty-alleviation theories," the report summarized foreign experts' views on Chinese inspirations for the world as "5Ds:" Determined Leadership, Detailed Blueprint, Development Oriented, Data-based Govern-

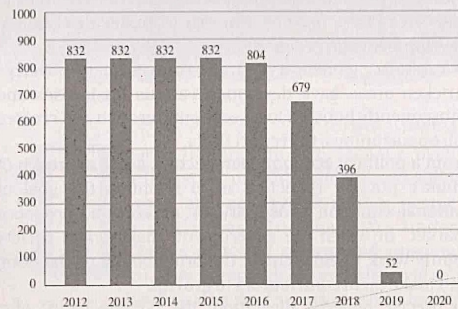


Figure 2 Number of Impoverished Counties (2012-2020)

poverty alleviation worldwide has revealed that precise poverty relief works best.

Precise action usually requires the support of a complex system, which entails a top-level design and rather innovative implementation at the grassroots level. The key to China's success in defeating absolute poverty lies in the aforesaid "effective interaction" and coordination between a top-down government leadership and bottom-up grassroots innovation.

Four areas of improvement are needed to boost the state's antipoverty efforts, namely in leadership, innovation, mobilization, and implementation.

1. Leadership capability

After setting the target of eliminating absolute poverty by 2020, China discovered that its previous model of poverty alleviation was hardly suffice to meet the new goal and began to restructure its top-level approach. The country put poverty alleviation at the top of its political agenda, with Xi Jinping as the commander-in-chief of nationwide poverty relief efforts. Party secretaries at the provincial, municipal, county, township, and village levels were asked to carry out the country's new anti-poverty campaign. The roles of the Party and government departments at different levels were defined as "central planning, provincial responsibility and city and county implementation." The main leaders of Party and government departments at all levels played a key role in the leadership system, ensuring resource planning, policy implementation and social mobilization. In 2015, the main leaders of Party and government departments in 22 provincial level regions in central and western China made a pledge to the central authorities to meet their poverty-elimination targets. Main officials from the country's 832 poverty-stricken counties were not permitted to transfer to posts in other areas before the counties where they worked shook off poverty.

2. Innovative capability

Under China's administrative system, county-level governments are in charge of connecting governments at the upper and lower levels. County-level governments are the frontline headquarters and they are entrusted with providing poverty relief objectives, tasks, funds, and accountability, all of which were originally assigned to provincial-level governments. This has prevented a fragmented management of funds and resources at the grassroots level, reduced institutional costs, and met the differentiated needs of impoverished communities and people in various counties.

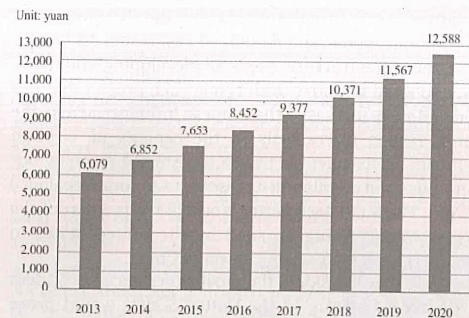


Figure 3 Annual Per Capita Disposable Incomes for the Rural Impoverished (2013-2020)

nance and Decentralized Delivery.

"There is no doubt that poverty alleviation is a vivid manifestation of the leadership of the CPC," the report highlighted the top leader's determined will, which creates a strong national will and drives the allocation of resources, as well as the leadership of the 91-million-member CPC.

With the common goal of eradicating absolute poverty, several generations of Chinese leaderships have drawn strategic blueprints and led the nation in successive struggles, which ensured policy continuity and spurred the entire country to work together toward a unified goal.

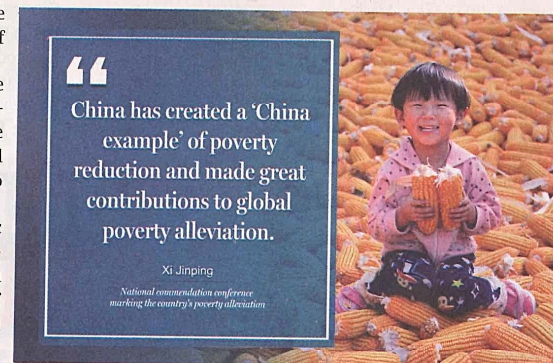
Meanwhile, China has long prioritized economic development in its poverty fight, which is combined with proactive, precise poverty-reduction practices that directly pass on the benefits of economic development to every poor household and eliminate poverty completely.

In the fight against poverty, the Chinese government has also attached particular importance to the development of big data and the digital economy and emphasized the application of advanced digital management, which made China's poverty alleviation success possible in a relatively short period of time.

Last but not least, the report attributed the effective implementation of poverty-alleviation policies to the "decentralized" nature of China's governance structure, featuring many improvisations at subnational levels to implement national policies.

Besides experience sharing, China has committed itself to the global combat against absolute poverty by participating in assistance programs, supporting "capacity development" projects and advocating a shared-solutions approach, according to the report.

"China, based on its own experience and theoretical ideas in poverty alleviation, is giving back to the human cause of ending poverty and providing a new reference for other countries and regions," it said. □



China's poverty alleviation efforts received a makeover with decision-making delegated to lower levels of government. Lower level officials were entrusted with responsibility and accountability, administrative and financial power, and a new form of assessment whereby GDP growth became secondary to meeting poverty-alleviation targets. Instead of the passive poverty alleviation of the past, where projects and funds were assigned and allocated top-down, the fight adopted a more localized and active approach defined by on-the-ground research and a more meticulous deployment of funds by grassroots officials. Localized innovations also organically sprang up, including "e-commerce poverty alleviation" and "tourism poverty alleviation," among others.

3. Mobilization capability

The key to China's success in poverty alleviation lies also in the country's mobilization of all parties to the maximum extent. It has coordinated the relationship between government, market and society and tapped into the country's traditional values of "helping each other" and "helping those in need," thus building a systematic and far-reaching poverty-alleviation ecosystem. China has also gathered a large amount of talent, projects and resources through poverty-relief campaigns including pairing, cooperation between the country's eastern and western parts, and the "10,000 Enterprises Helping 10,000 Villages" program. According to incomplete statistics, the Chinese government's investment in poverty alleviation has led to trillions of yuan of additional total social investment.

4. Implementation capability

The Chinese government has augmented its poverty-alleviation efforts through assessment, incentives and discipline. Since 2015, it has introduced third-party assessment, cross-assessment between different provincial-level regions, and unannounced media visits as a supplement to its top-down approach, thus bolstering the quality and efficiency of its poverty-alleviation work. Impoverished people and communities have more say in poverty-alleviation work, thanks to seven assessment indicators, including a satisfaction rating system.

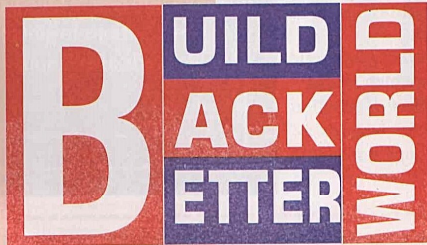
In addition, multi-faceted supervision, anti-graft efforts, improvement in official governing style as well as public participation have all contributed to China realizing the goal of building an all-round well-off society while leaving no one behind.



Confrontation rather than cooperation, bellicosity rather than peaceful coexistence, ideological alliance-building rather than international collaboration to tackle issues of global concerns are going to dominate the international political, economic and security landscape. With every passing day, the capacity of the rules-based international order to resolve conflicts in an unbiased and non-partisan manner is being eroded by the geostrategic rivalries, geopolitical competitions, and geo-economic differences. The main thrust for the rapidly-fraying fabric of the post-liberal world order is the intensifying scrambling between the United States and China for seeking dominance in the realms of regional security, global trade and finance, and multilateral diplomacy. In the wake of former Chinese President Deng Xiaoping's decision of opening Chinese markets to foreign investors and adoption of free-market economy with Chinese characteristics, the US government decided to help China gain membership of global economic and trade institutions. The US policymakers hoped that China would eventually become a democracy, shun mercantilist trade tools and a communist, planned economy, but China remained committed to its socialist market economy and continued to practice the unique combination of capitalist and socialist economic models. So, it has emerged instead as the most serious rival to the West-propagated economic and political order. The Chinese leadership does not shy of projecting the socialist market economy as the exclusive way forward to purge the world of the capitalism-led problems, like inequality, brutal monopoly of multinational corporations (MNCs), and rampant poverty. China has undertaken various

initiatives to convince the world about the effectiveness of its economic model, and mobilized vast resources to help meet the infrastructure needs of developing countries. Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is one such project that has tremendously increased the Chinese influence across the world, raising alarm bells in the capitals of Western countries. Consequently, the US has started reaching out to its allies and mobilizing its resources to counterbalance the BRI. The Build Back Better World (B3W) is a part of the larger strategy being pursued by the United States to contain the relentless rising power of China. The hope that Joe Biden, the most experienced president in the recent history of the United States, would prove instrumental in bridging the gulf between the United States and China, created during the tumultuous period of Trump administration, has shattered. Though Biden has softened the tone and rhetoric against China, the substance of the strategic communication remains the same. The communiqués issued after the summits of G-7 and NATO in June this year have heightened the tension to an unprecedented level, and Biden's efforts to revitalize the transatlantic alliance against China have convinced the EU countries to condemn China, though half-heartedly.

It is for the first time in years that the EU has directly addressed China and its 'violations of human rights' in Hong Kong, Taiwan and, most importantly, of Uyghur Muslims. In G-7 Summit held at Cornwall, the United Kingdom, the world's most advanced democracies expressed their concern over the HR situation in Xinjiang and demanded greater autonomy for Hong Kong. They also sought investigation to determine the origin of Covid-19.



In the NATO summit, Biden termed the Sino-US competition as the rivalry between democracies and autocracies, and labelled China as a "security threat" and "systematic challenge to rules-based international order". Apart from these unprecedented condemnations, the most important outcome of these summits is the announcement of a \$40 trillion infrastructure-building initiative, dubbed as Build Back Better World (B3W), to rival the China-led Belt and Road Initiative and counteract the political and diplomatic influence of China. As per a statement released by the White House, B3W is a bold new global infrastructure initiative that will help narrow the \$40 trillion infrastructure needs in low- and middle-income countries by 2035. The statement further added that G-7 and other like-minded countries will coordinate to mobilize the private and public capital, and the main areas of focus will be climate, health and health security, digital technology, and gender equity and equality. The values of transparency and accountability will be accorded paramount importance, and rules of Blue Dot Network - a joint initiative launched by the US, Japan, and Australia on November 4, 2019, at the Indo-Pacific Business Forum in Bangkok, Thailand - would ensure financial transparency, environmental sustainability and socioeconomic development. The United States has also decided to ask G-7 to ensure catalytic investments from their development finance institutions to complement the investment from private sectors. Catalytic investment is more risk-taking and it can accept concessionary return as compared to conventional investment. The statement has vowed to make

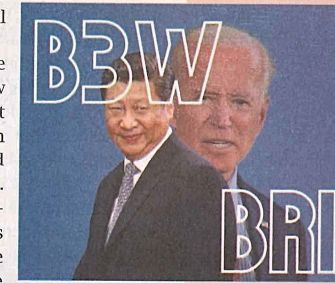
infrastructure-building under the B3W platform consistent with Paris Climate Agreement. Furthermore, the initiative would be global in scope and members of G-7 would be given different geographic orientations.

Combatively, both BRI and B3W, have some advantages and disadvantages. In terms of disadvantages, BRI-led projects are causing debt unsustainability. As per a report, eight recipients of BRI-led investment and concessionary and commercial

loans - Ethiopia, Egypt, Yemen, Ukraine, Syria, Iraq, Jordan and Afghanistan - are at greater risk of being unable to pay back the loans. The fact that BRI is exclusively funded by China is also a source of concern. This one-sided flow of investment causes dependency among recipient countries in terms of capital goods and services. Any disruption in the bilateral ties or economic situation in China could create adverse political, economic and security impacts, and provide potential grounds for diplomatic manipulation in case of non-compliance. For instance, the Covid-19 impacted 20 percent of BRI projects with delays and financial constraints that speak volumes about the vulnerability of the recipient countries. Another reservation is the alleged export of Chinese labour to the recipient countries that translates in the much lower level of employment-generation than that anticipated or promised.

Similarly, B3W also suffers from some shortcomings. First and foremost, it lacks clarity and does not provide any detail as to how the EU and the US will manage to mobilize a whopping \$40 trillion financing. Secondly, it is a multilateral initiative, involving members of the G-7 group which would make B3W slower and riddled with red-tapism. Thirdly, mobilization of private capital would be a major headache as private sector would be reluctant to share any risk and, if they somehow agree, they would demand higher returns.

Advantageously, BRI was not launched to contain the influence of the US; it was more or less an economic outreach plan, designed to plug the gap of infrastructure development. That makes BRI an inclusive project without any geopolitical strings attached. The BRI is not a slogan; it



is an umbrella of 2600 projects with a combined value of \$3.7 trillion scattered across 140 countries. The investment under BRI is being made in strategic infrastructure like ports and telecommunication (e.g. 5G.) that would help improve inter- and intra-regional connectivity. In addition, state-led investment and continuation of state policies due to a one-party system would make it easier and quicker for China to ensure the uninterrupted flow of resources for decades to come. Apart from the above-mentioned structural deficiencies, the implementation of B3W would face formidable hurdles due to geopolitical and geoeconomic restraints. First, the West has not undertaken any major infrastructure project since 1948 when the US Secretary of State announced the \$13 billion Marshall Plan to help rebuild war-battered Europe. In other words, the West has a poor track record on infrastructure development. The direction and scale of aid that Europe and the United States provide are heavily influenced by geopolitical and economic considerations. The Guardian terms the US and European aid as fraud and maintains that the aid does nothing to ameliorate inequality. In Doha Debates, it has been revealed that \$2 trillion flows from global North to global South each year in terms of aid, loan and foreign investment, but worryingly, \$5 trillion flows in opposite direction, i.e. from global South to global North, in the form of shady financial activities, tax evasion, illicit money transfer involving MNCs, and payment on the debts. This situation indicates the predatory and exploitative relations that the West has with the East and it boomerangs the allegations levelled by the US that China systematically engages in predatory trade practices. Furthermore, it creates doubt over the willingness of the West to reverse this flow of money. Through investments in countries which face extreme difficulties in attracting foreign direct investment (FDI), China has entrenched its influence and diplomatic and political sway over the BRI countries that would pose another serious roadblock to B3W. The significance of BRI

can be gauged from the fact that China hosted Asia and Pacific High Level Conference on BRI Cooperation on June 23, in which 29 countries, as well as representatives of six international organizations, participated. But, not only the developing countries but also the developed ones will offer stiff resistance and avoid being entangled in the Cold War-like scenario. Even the G-7 countries, the Biden Administration is counting on for financial resources to materialize B3W, are sceptical about the confrontational policies. Germany, Italy and the UK would find it harder to project B3W as an alternative to BRI. China has emerged as a top export market for Germany and has been its largest trading partner for five consecutive years. It is no wonder that German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, has noted with great concern that "EU and US interests on China are not identical." Italy, which is also a part of BRI, vehemently opposed the anti-China stance during G-7 Summit and its prime minister, Mario Draghi, has suggested that such actions against China should be avoided. The United Kingdom, which is struggling to craft its independent role in international affairs in the wake of Brexit, would also avoid alienating the world's most powerful economic state. British premier, Boris Johnson, remarked on the sideline of the NATO summit: "When it comes to China, nobody wants to descend into Cold War." EU enjoys comprehensive trade ties with China which was its top trading partner in 2020, surpassing the United States. These above-mentioned facts make it abundantly clear that the US would find it very hard to convince its transatlantic partners to resist China through investing in rival projects. Having discussed the bottlenecks in the way of implementation of B3W, it would be pertinent here to analyze China's response to the initiative. After the issuance of the communiqué of the G-7 Summit, Chinese embassy in London responded with a strongly-worded statement whereby it advised the West to avoid unilateralism and a spokesman for the embassy remarked: "The days when global decisions were dictated by a small group of countries are long gone." China also termed the NATO communiqué as the continuation of the Cold War mentality. On a positive note, the emphasis of B3W on investment in adaption to and mitigation of climate change and improvement in human capital has inspired China to add a pro-environment dimension to the BRI. In an article, Nong Rong (Chinese ambassador to Pakistan), suggested that BRI should focus on green infrastructure, green energy, green transport and green finance. He even offered undertaking another pilot project, Green CPEC, to convince the world about the instant dividends that could be reaped by both BRI and non-BRI countries

should the project under BRI are implemented smoothly and utilized as per their potential. It is welcome to note that China is willing to accommodate reservations and is contemplating to undertake remedial measures. B3W could have impacts on Pakistan as well. Pakistan enjoys "strategic cooperative partnership" with China and CPEC, as the flagship project of BRI, is being implemented here with bipartisan consensus. China has invested considerable diplomatic and financial capital to make CPEC a case study for countries sitting on the fence. The success or failure of CPEC would be the ultimate litmus



test to gauge the efficacy of BRI-led investment to resolve recipient countries' socio-economic issues. The centrality of CPEC has been the underlying motivation behind US and international financial institutions' sustained efforts to pressure Pakistan into rethinking its approach vis-à-vis CPEC. Although the US has unambiguously termed B3W as a democratic alternative to BRI, the participation of Pakistan in B3W is almost a non-starter. Nonetheless, Pakistan could face arm-twisting from its bilateral and multilateral lenders and thus, creating hurdles in the westward expansion of CPEC and turning CPEC into a trilateral or quadrilateral venture. But there is no likelihood that Pakistan would scale back CPEC-related projects. Ambassador Nong Rong has revealed in his article that as many as 46 projects have either been completed or are under construction. These projects have a combined value of \$25.4 billion and have generated 75,000 jobs. So, China-led investment is too extensive to ignore, and consequently, Pakistan would continue to resist any attempt to halt or scale back the progress on CPEC projects. The world — developing countries, in particular — is in a dire need of infrastructure. McKinsey Global Institute reported in 2016 that \$3.3 trillion worth of investment needed to plug the gap in the infrastructure needs on the annual basis, but developing countries could not meet

that cost and there remained a gap of \$350 billion annually which is expected to widen to \$5.3 trillion by 2030. If we add financial requirements to meet climate adaption and socio-economic investment to meet SDGs, the gap will be more than \$15.9 trillion by that time. High-quality infrastructure is crucially required and it is indeed a welcome development that the West has begun to realize the importance of connectivity and integration. Inclusiveness and non-political nature of the B3W could provide it some momentum to take off, but unfortunately, the US is hell bent on projecting B3W as a new arena to wage the ideological battle. The Spanish Civil War (1936–1939) was also termed as the battle between democracies and autocracies, which eventually proved a precursor to the Second World War. This us-versus-them approach should be avoided because it carries the seeds of a full-fledged war. Unnecessary dragging of ideological dimension to the economic affairs would not serve the world. It seems that after Red Scare (1947–1957), the US is now experiencing Dragon Scare that is pushing successive US administrations to mobilize resources to contain China. Thucydides's trap seems to be the only justification for rapidly-deteriorating Sino-US ties and the resultant emergence of rudimentary contours of alliance-building along ideological lines. Amidst the multifaceted global challenges — climate change, the trail of destruction left by Covid-19, nuclear armament, and poor progress over SDGs, to name a few — the confrontational path bodes ill for the future of the world. Any prospect of the resurrection of the Cold War in any sphere is bound to have crippling consequences for international peace, stability and development. ■

The writer is a graduate of the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad. He writes on national and international affairs.

We have never bullied, oppressed, or subjugated the people of any other country, and we never will. By the same token, we will never allow any foreign force to bully, oppress, or subjugate us. Anyone who would attempt to do so will find themselves on a collision course with a great wall of steel forged by over 1.4 billion Chinese people.

-Xi Jinping

General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC), Chinese President, Chairman of the Central Military Commission

The Chinese people had stood up, and the time in which the Chinese nation could be bullied and abused by others was gone forever.

-Xi Jinping

General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC), Chinese President, Chairman of the Central Military Commission

America's Crushing Defeat in AFGHANISTAN

The consequences of the conflict for Afghans, already catastrophic, are likely to get worse



Aftab Abbasi

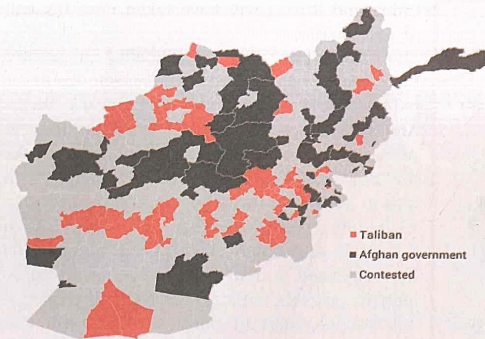
"I want to talk about happy things, man!" protested President Joe Biden in early July, when reporters asked him about the imminent withdrawal of the last American forces from Afghanistan,

expected sometime in the next few weeks. No wonder he wants to change the subject: America has been fighting in Afghanistan for 20 years. It has spent more than two trillion dollars on the war. It has lost thousands of its own troops and seen the death of tens of thousands of Afghans—soldiers and civilians alike. Now America is calling an end to the whole sorry adventure, with almost nothing to show for it.

True, al-Qaeda, which sparked the war by allegedly planning the 9/11 attacks from Afghanistan, is no longer much of a force in the country, although it has not been eliminated entirely. But that is about as far as it goes. Other anti-American terror groups, including a branch of Islamic State, continue to operate in Afghanistan. The zealots of the Taliban, who harboured Osama bin Laden and were overthrown by America-backed forces after 9/11, have made a horrifying comeback. They are in complete control of about half the country and threaten to conquer the rest. The democratic, pro-Western government fostered by so much American blood and money is corrupt, widely reviled and in steady retreat.

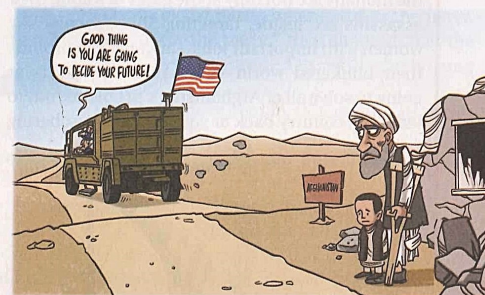
In theory, the Taliban and the America-backed government are negotiating a peace accord, whereby the insurgents lay down their arms and participate instead in a redesigned political system. In the best-case scenario, strong American support for the government, both financial and military (in the form of continuing air strikes on the Taliban), coupled with immense pressure on the insurgents' friends, such as Pakistan, might succeed in producing some form of power-sharing agreement. But even if that were to happen—and the chances are low—it would be a depressing spectacle. The Taliban would insist on moving backwards in the direction of the brutal theocracy they imposed during their previous stint in power, when they confined women to their homes, stopped girls from going to school and meted out harsh punishments for sins such as wearing the wrong clothes or listening to the wrong music.

More likely than any deal, however, is that the Taliban try to use their victories on the battlefield to topple the government by force. They have already overrun much of the countryside, with government units mostly restricted to cities and towns. Demoralised government troops are abandoning their posts. Over 5,000 of them fled from the north-



eastern province of Badakhshan to neighbouring Tajikistan. The Taliban have not yet managed to capture and hold any cities, and may lack the manpower to do so in lots of places at once. They may prefer to throttle the government slowly rather than attack it head on. But the momentum is clearly on their side.

At the very least, the civil war is likely to intensify, as the Taliban press their advantage and the government fights for its life. Other countries—China, India, Iran, Russia and Pakistan—will seek to fill the vacuum left by America. Some will funnel money and weapons to friendly warlords. The result will be yet more bloodshed and destruction, in a country that has suffered constant warfare for more than 40



years. Those who worry about possible reprisals against the locals who worked as translators for the Americans are missing the big picture: America is abandoning an entire country of almost 40 million people to a grisly fate.

It did not have to be this way. For the past six years, fewer than 10,000 American troops, plus a similar number from other Nato countries, have propped up the Afghan army enough to maintain the status quo. American casualties had dropped to almost nothing. The war, which used to rile voters, had become a political irrelevance in America. Since becoming president, Mr Biden has focused, rightly, on the threats posed by China and Russia. But the American

The Graveyard of Empires

Exactly two decades after the United States (US) invaded Afghanistan, it will end its military presence in the country by August 31. After 9/11, a wounded US decided that it was time to teach the Taliban-ruled Islamic Emirate—the base of al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden—a lesson. As the US ends the war, it has lost over 2,500 of its own citizens and left a much greater trail of destruction all around. According to a Brown University study, by April 2021, 241,000 people, including 71,000 civilians, had died as a direct result of the war in Afghanistan. These numbers have only increased.

The US vacillated between two objectives during the war. The first was to weaken and destroy al-Qaeda and kill Osama bin Laden. The second was to reorganise Afghan society, address root causes of extremism, and create a liberal democratic polity. By the end of the 2000s, al-Qaeda had become a weaker, more diffused and decentralised network, finding other theatres to advance its objectives through terror. The US located and killed bin Laden in 2011, in Pakistan. The war, however, did not end because the second objective, of nation-building, persisted. Eventually, war fatigue in the US; the desire to concentrate on domestic challenges (Covid-19, economy) and new external strategic threats (China) and a desire to wash its hands of domestic complexities of the Islamic Republic, led an overwhelming consensus in the US in favour of withdrawal. Donald Trump initiated the process, Joe Biden (always sceptical of the war's more ambitious objectives) is concluding it. All the US has effectively got in return is a commitment by Taliban that Afghan soil won't be used against the US.

And so here is the scorecard. The Taliban is back, already in control of much of Afghan territory and within striking distance of power in Kabul. Afghanistan's democratic governance structure, armed forces, and civil society are too weak to resist. The Republic is headed to becoming an Emirate again. Gains of the last two decades, particularly in terms of women and minority rights, are about to be lost. Pakistan, considered by the US the actor most responsible for the violence in Afghanistan, has returned as the victor. Others, including India, stare at a new security threat. And just like the British in the mid-19th century and the Soviets in the late-20th century, the US has gone back home, after its longest war ever, in defeat.



Taliban Leadership structure



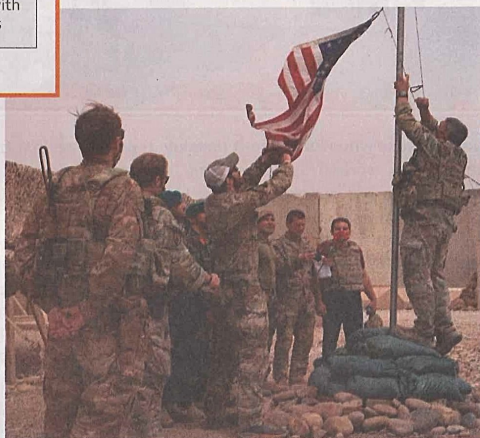
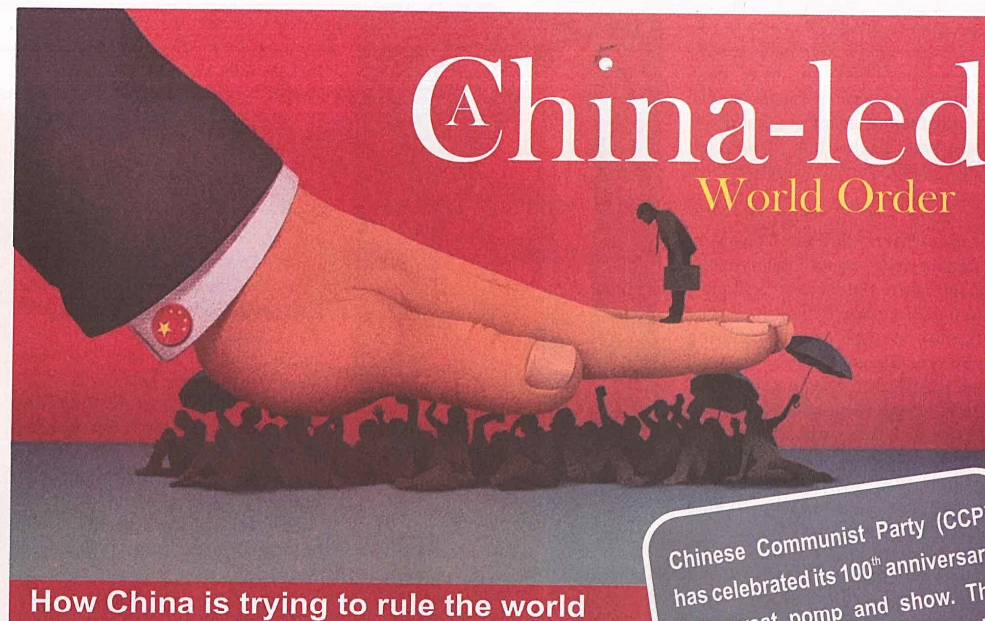
deployment in Afghanistan had grown so small that it did not really interfere with that. The new American administration views the long stalemate as proof that there is no point remaining in Afghanistan. But for the Afghans whom it protected from the Taliban, the stalemate was precious.

There will be a long debate about how much the withdrawal saps America's credibility and prestige. For all its wealth and military might, America failed not only to create a strong, self-sufficient Afghan state, but also to defeat a determined insurgency. What is more, America is no longer prepared to put its weight behind its supposed ally, the Afghan government, to the surprise and dismay of many Afghan officials. Hostile regimes in places like

China and Russia will have taken note—as will America's friends.

That does not make Afghanistan a second Vietnam. For one thing, the Afghan war was never really the Pentagon's or the nation's focus. American troops were on the ground far longer in Afghanistan than they were in Vietnam, but far fewer of them died. Other events, from the war in Iraq to the global financial crisis, always seemed more important than what was happening in Kandahar. And American politicians and pundits have agonised over whether to stay or go for so long that, now the withdrawal has finally arrived, it has lost its power to shock. To the extent that outsiders see it as a sign of American weakness, that weakness has been evident for a long time. Shocking or not, though, the withdrawal is, nonetheless, a calamity for the people of Afghanistan. In 2001, many hoped that America might end their 20-year-old civil war and free them from a stifling, doctrinaire theocracy. For a time, it looked as though that might happen. But today, the lives of ordinary Afghans are more insecure than ever: civilian casualties were almost 30% higher last year than in 2001, when the American deployment began, according to estimates from the UN and academics. The economy is no bigger than it was a decade ago. And the mullahs are not only at the gates of Kabul; their assassins are inside, targeting Shias, secularists, women with important jobs—anyone who offends their blinkered world-view. America was never going to solve all of Afghanistan's problems, but to leave the country back at square one is a sobering failure. ■

The writer is a member of staff.

China-led
World Order

How China is trying to rule the world



"Listen to the party, be grateful to the party, and follow the party," they shouted. "Let the party rest assured, I'm with the strong country!"

For the Chinese people, CCP may be an avatar of hope and prosperity; an organization working ardently for the betterment and development of the Chinese nation. However, for its detractors, CCP is more a criminal organization than a political entity. They assert that the CCP works on the canons of fascism, totalitarianism and Bonapartism. In such a regimented milieu, dissent is no longer allowed to evolve and is, hence, nipped in the bud. Those not in consonance with the dispensation as practiced by CCP are suddenly vanished, never to be seen again.

CCP believes "Whatever is yours is mine and whatever is mine is not yours." It takes over successful businesses from billionaires (Alibaba Group from Jack Ma), enslaves entire communities (Uyghurs), and generally behaves like a bunch of goons.

Political cognoscenti have strong apprehensions about China's rise under the CCP umbrella. They believe that China is gradually moving towards global dominance and thereby replacing America as a global policeman. They contend that a China-led world order is in the offing.

How much is it true? Has China really embarked on a plan

Abdul Rasool Syed

of ruling over the world? Is it really smoothing its way to clinch the slot of global leadership? If yes, then how is it going to happen? In this very piece, I will pinpoint some of the key features of

strategy to subject the world to its sway.

Propaganda Warfare

Propaganda warfare is one of the key features of China's grand strategy to bring the world under its yoke of domination. China is found to be exploiting the freedom of speech as propagated by the Western world. It enjoys free access to Western media but denies the same to that in its own country. This very strategy enables China to successfully launch its propaganda warfare abroad and, at the same time, inhibit its tentacles inside its frontiers.

To this end, in 2009, the CCP launched its 6 billion dollar 'Grand External Propaganda Campaign' to spread the reach of the official mouthpieces of the party like Xinhua. They simply decided to use their financial prowess to

Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has celebrated its 100th anniversary with great pomp and show. The event was marked by spectacular performances. In a rousing opening, the performers chanted slogans celebrating the party's leadership as President Xi Jinping and other leaders watched on with great pride.

China's grand

exploit the freedom of speech in the West to spread their own propaganda. For instance, they put huge paid inserts in Western newspapers that are indistinguishable from real news. These paid stories talk about how good is life in China and how freedom flourishes there!

The other way in which the CCP controls what is said about China is by clamping down on all foreign media reporting in the country. China's strict media policy, for sure, has done a great damage to the ongoing campaign against Covid-19 as well. The CCP has foxily manipulated international media in its favour. Resultantly, the press, rather than censuring China for its spread of coronavirus, started lauding its efforts for keeping the deadly pathogen under control.

Debt Peonage

China's debt policy is, in fact, a debt peonage which it uses as a tool to exert its influence around the world. China while doling out money to any state takes three things into account.

Firstly, the target country must possess land that is of strategic interest to China. Basically, it should fit in with China's trillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to build infrastructure around the world. The BRI's objective is to transport goods and gain strategic influence for China, and also grab the land that is of strategic military value to it.

Secondly, the country that is the recipient of Chinese money must be indigent so that it has to welcome funds to do some massive projects and have officials dying to accept bribes.

Thirdly, the project shouldn't be feasible from a financial angle. It must have no chance of generating income to help the target nation pay off its loan to China.

If all these factors are in place, China will go ahead with its biggest financial con.

The Sri Lankan port of Hambantota is a pertinent example in this case. The Chinese were interested in getting this port as it is strategically close to their rival India, and is also helpful in their BRI projects.



Chinese offered to help Sri Lanka to not just build the Hambantota Port, but also give them an 8 billion dollar loan at 6 percent interest to finance its construction. Once the port was built, Sri Lankan authorities realized that the port's location was not near international shipping lanes. So, it wasn't going to generate revenue enough to help them pay off the Chinese loan. Of course, the CCP already knew this and it presented a readymade solution: a deal in which the Chinese received a debt-for-equity swap along with a 99-year lease to manage the port.

The predatory nature of China can also be seen in how it has targeted poor countries like Laos and Cambodia in Southeast Asia, Montenegro and Kyrgyzstan in Europe and Central Asia, the Maldives in the Indian

Ocean, Pakistan in the Indian Subcontinent, and almost all of impoverished Africa.

Additionally, China's ingress into Africa is also not bona fide. It does not intend to help the impoverished nations of Africa, but it just wants to control their resources, people and potential.

Further, Chinese projects don't create jobs for the impoverished locals. The Chinese firms bring in their own drivers, construction workers and support staff, and live apart from the local societies.

In short, China is colonizing the world of its choice through its diabolic policy of debt trap. It is startlingly reminiscent of how the British colonized India for nearly 200 years.

Intellectual Property Theft

The theft of intellectual property is yet another tool used by China to dampen its rivals financially. Surprisingly, if a Chinese company steals your product idea or your product branding, there's no Chinese court of law that you can knock at for justice.

Take Google and Amazon, for example. China has casually cloned them with their own versions. Google was replaced by Baidu and Amazon by Alibaba. Both of them are now huge brands in



China, and neither has paid a cent to the originals. Likewise, you can find rip-offs of all major brands. Be it Gap, Nike, Bose, or any other major brand in the world, you will find a fake equivalent in the Chinese markets.

What's worse, if a company wants to do business in China, they must give China the right to steal their technology – that's legalized theft!

Unethical Ways to Achieve Ends

The CCP is fully conversant with the fact that civilized nations have ethics and they play by the rules. So, if you have no sense of honour and accept no rules, you will have a huge competitive edge over your rivals. Simply put, the CCP's philosophy is, 'What is mine is not yours, but what is yours is mine.' Law courts exist in China, but only to be used by the CCP against its detractors.

One such example of China's unethical modus operandi to achieve its ends is "hacking". Though unethical, it is a favourite weapon of war for the CCP. The party employs an army of hackers, who are at its disposal from dawn to dusk, looking for vulnerabilities in every institution in the free world. When they find one, they exploit it ruthlessly.

One of the most notorious of these hacks happened in 2007 when the airplane major, Lockheed Martin was targeted. Chinese hackers stole technical documents related to the F-35, the world's most advanced fighter aircraft. Experts have argued that the design of China's stealth fighter, the J-31, as well as that of the Chengdu J-20 fighter jet, is in part influenced by the F-35 designs. This was simply a state-sponsored theft.

Strict Surveillance

Foreigners visiting China need to be very cautious



as the CCP is always setting honeypot traps. It is believed that the CCP has incriminating videos of top Western figures, and it blackmails them to support China when and wherever needed.

Seeing how well surveillance program was working inside China, the CCP decided to export it to the world via Huawei, whose hardware is omnipresent in the networks all around the globe. Once the West realized what was going on, the crap hit the fan. The US banned Huawei from its 5G networks over concerns of security, and the UK also followed the suit.

Military Expansionism

Although CCP does not admit publicly that it has any design to conquer the foreign land, yet its military expansionism is in full swing. President Xi Jinping, in 2015, during a press talk with Barack Obama in the Rose Garden at the White House, promised that "there is no intention to militarize" a collection of disputed reefs in the South China Sea known as the Spratly Islands. But since then, Chinese dredgers have poured mountains of sand onto Mischief Reef and six other Chinese-controlled

features in the Spratly and have added at least 3,200 acres of land, and militarized the whole place to its teeth. The islands can now host long-range missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

To sum it up, what can be learned from this is that China is fully determined to rule the roost in the world and, for this purpose, it is ready to do whatever is possible regardless of what is right and what is wrong. The apothegm "Every-

thing is fair in love and war" best defines China's contemporary international demeanour. ■

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Since President Deng Xiaoping announced "Open Door Policy" in 1978 to open China's doors to foreign nations for business, trade and investments, China has trod the path of swift, steady and sustainable development. It feels surreal that a country which was once trapped in debt, poverty and monopoly with a little to no recognition at world stage will transcend all boundaries of growth and development. That once-debt-trapped and cash-strapped country is now an emerging economic giant or to put it bluntly, "The Rising Dragon". China, since Deng Xiaoping, has undergone unprecedented and transcendental transformation and with this tectonic shift, it has shaken the post-Cold War world order dominated by the United States. With Xi Jinping at the helm of affairs now, China is not only making cosmic strides at domestic level but is also spreading its economic-strategic tentacles across the world through its soft, smart and sharp diplomacy. Widely touted as Xi Jinping's thought on "Socialism with Chinese Characteristics" for a new era, or "China Dream," the Xi doctrine provides a blue print for his own model. Xi is not only harping on the importance of Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and presenting it as the saviour of China; he is also aggrandizing his own personality cult. The two-term presidential limit has been removed that has paved the way for his lifelong stay in power. He is widely touted as the strongest leader after Mao Zedong, owing to his relentless efforts which have greatly metamorphosed the outlook of contemporary China. Xi's domestic and foreign policy imperatives can be de-constructed in this regard.

CHINA'S PANCONTINENTAL CENTURY

The dragon is rising



President Xi Jinping's first and foremost objective is to avoid the looming 'middle-income trap'; he has kick-started the process of privatization of state-owned enterprises, reduction of excessive equipment and liberalization of financial markets.

China's working-age population has been decreasing since 2013 and experts presume China has begun to enter "Lewis turning point" – where worker wages begin to rise faster than the rate of inflation because the surplus labour pool has exhausted.

Second, President Xi wants to bridge China's growing income gap. Recently, claims were made that China has eliminated absolute poverty – though they met wide scepticism. However, apart from veracity of these claims, inequality and distributive injustice are still prevalent in China as asset growth of urban and upper class is constantly increasing. President Xi has talked about reforming tax sector, and reinvigorating the welfare and labour policies to achieve his much-hyped slogan of 'common prosperity' to have a handle on rising inequality.

Another of President Xi's ambitions is anti-corruption campaign that he launched to rectify the spoiled reputation of the CCP. Austerity is being promoted, foreign trips of dignitaries have been curtailed, security of VIPs has been trimmed and crackdowns on defrauders and culprits have been made more vigorous.

Along with that, China, under Xi, is also trying to revamp its growth model. The Chinese economy is beset with a raft of problems like heavy pollution, rising disparities, industrial saturation, inefficient financial market, excessive credit and growing debt, state-dominated banking sector and an obsolete one-child [and even two-child] policy that has reduced the quantum of working labour. The Xi dispensation has proposed a new growth model along with 'Made in China 2025' plan that aims to promote advanced, quality manufacturing, private consumption, innovation, green and low-carbon economy and human capital servicing to address the challenges.

China is an upper middle income economy that is based on resource-intensive manufacturing, exports and low-paid labour but these incentives have reached their limits and growth has moderated due to ageing population, slowing productivity, diminishing returns on investments and declining labour force growth. Economic growth has also decelerated due to harsh geopolitical climate, global economic downturn and a messy technological decoupling from US.

On the flip side, Xi's China has also altered the contours of foreign policy to enhance its influence primarily at international stage. It pledges to:

- Maintain and secure national unity including Taiwan
- Gain maximum energy security
- Dampen the pace of environmental pollution
- Dispense with Deng's doctrine of 'Hide your strength and bide your time'
- Maintain doctrine of "peaceful development"
- Leverage bilateral relations with Russia and BRICS, SCO,

and UNO.

Many a great strategic initiative has been taken in this regard like multibillion dollar One Belt, One Road (OBOR) initiative under 'Strings of Pearls' strategy, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), New Asian Security concept – that underpins common security, cooperative security and comprehensive security as its very hallmarks – new type of great-power relations that pledge mutual respect; win-win cooperation, strategic trust and people-to-people contacts', cooperation framework for China-Southeast Asia relations 2013 that harps on good neighbourliness, upgradation of China-ASEAN free trade area, establishment of AIIB to finance regional projects, establishment of ASEAN-China defence dialogue to address regional security concerns.

However, China's troubles at external front are getting messier and more intricate. The US has openly started questioning One-China policy. Despite China's objections, the US has started developing official relations with what China considers its breakaway province, i.e. Taiwan. In 2020, US approved arms sales to Taiwan worth around \$1.8bn that further strained US-China relations. Recently, Chinese bombers flexed their muscles in Air Identification Zone of Taiwan, a move that was perceived as a threat to territorial integrity of Taiwan which deems itself as a sovereign nation.

Tensions are also simmering in Hong Kong where 'Extradition Bill' was introduced in 2018 that allows extradition of culprits to mainland China. Protests broke out against the law upon which the Bill was shelved. However, protests turned into a vibrant pro-democracy movement that increased Beijing's troubles which is already facing stresses and strains at foreign front. The Xi dispensation passed National Security Law, 2020, that criminalizes secession, subversion, terrorism and collusion with foreign forces to dampen the pace of growing unrest and hysteria. Xinjiang, an autonomous province in far northwestern China on the border with Mongolia and Kazakhstan – and also the largest province in the People's Republic of China and the homeland of the Uyghurs people – is also facing strict surveillance and security measures by the state, owing to rising insurgency and Uyghur militancy. Various

human rights organizations have condemned internment camps in China which the Chinese government asserts are 'de-radicalization' or 're-education' camps. Likewise, Line of Actual Control (LAC) – the demarcation that separates Indian-controlled territory from Chinese-controlled territory – is also still heavily militarized and reeling under the aftershocks of 2017 Doklam standoff and conflagration in Ladakh valley.

China's assertive diplomacy and militarization of South China Sea is also being perceived as a threat and has been received with scepticism at regional and international levels. Washington has scoffed at heavy military buildup in the Spratly Islands and declared this more as an act of "obstruction of open and free maritime navigation. Recently, the United States approved the sale of F-16

fighter jets to the Philippines amid mounting tensions over South China Sea. The increasing use of "grey-zone tactics," seizure of

Scarborough Shoal from the Philippines in 2012,

extensive island-building between 2014 and 2017 and massive patrolling of Chinese Coast Guards in the disputed area have made the prospects of a conflagration all the more imminent.

Though problems like ageing population, market saturation, social disparities and territorial disputes continue to beset China's dream to grow, expand and open up at international stage, yet China, under Xi, is setting new precedents of growth and development. It is a

cocktail of regional cooperation, economic statecraft and smart diplomacy that has made China all the more indispensable and important in the comity of nations. The planned and pre-meditated experimentation with political economy by Xi and his predecessors have started bearing fruit. The dragon is rising and the spectacle will be worth watching! ■

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The conference, where attending parties vowed to enhance efforts to jointly fight the pandemic and boost the green economy for a sustainable recovery, is regarded as a signal to show that the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the 2013-born framework, has endured the test of Covid-19 and continues to be vigorous in buttressing regional economies hit hard by the pandemic. As an influential and popular initiative, the BRI has withstood the test of times, with distinguished characteristics.

First, the BRI is not meant for geopolitics, nor for competition, but for practical needs for development. As President Xi Jinping points out, the BRI aims to carry on the Silk Road spirit and co-build an open platform for cooperation to generate new driving forces for the development of all countries. Therefore, China realised that the infrastructure and energy sectors were major obstacles for many developing countries, which could not be solved due to lack of funds. China has committed itself to investing in the BRI countries to meet their urgently needed projects. Take the energy projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for example. They now stand at a quarter of Pakistan's power supply, and have become the guarantee of the wellbeing of people and the functioning of the economy. Second, the BRI is not a slogan, but an endeavour that yields tangible results and progress. Over the past eight years, the BRI has evolved from

On June 23, the Asia and Pacific High-level Conference on the Belt and Road Cooperation was successfully held. It was attended by political leaders from 29 countries, and representatives from six international organisations including the United Nations. Chinese president Xi Jinping delivered written remarks. State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi presided over the meeting. H E Foreign Minister Qureshi addressed the function.

vision into reality, and brought about enormous opportunities and benefits to countries around the world. Trade between China and the BRI partners has exceeded 9.2 trillion US dollars. Direct investment by Chinese companies in countries along the Belt and Road has surpassed 130 billion US dollars. A World Bank report suggests that when fully implemented, the BRI could increase global trade by 6.2 percent and global real income by 2.9 percent, and give a significant boost to global growth. Third, the BRI is built for connectivity, not for confrontation or isolation. We have launched a large number of pragmatic cooperation projects to benefit the public, and established the multi-dimensional and comprehensive connectivity partnership. To date, up to 140 partner countries have signed documents on Belt and Road cooperation with China. The BRI is beyond the scope of transportation connectivity, and has become the bridge for trade, commerce and people-to-people connectivity, thus serving as the world's broadest-based and largest platform for international cooperation. Fourth, the BRI is world-oriented, instead of driven by political blocs. It follows the philosophy of openness, inclusiveness and win-win cooperation, and sticks to the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits. The BRI and its core value have been written into the relevant documents of the United Nations, the G20, APEC and other regional organisations, and has become the most well-received

Nong Rong

Unparalleled Belt and Road Cooperation

An Ode to BRI?

Is the developing world in for a treat as Sino-US economic rivalry heats up? While Donald Trump was busy tearing down America's leadership mantle in the world from 2017 to 2020, China during that time remained focused on expanding its economic influence and soft power abroad under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Recognizing that the ongoing 'great power competition' cannot be ignored any longer, new US administration has signalled it aims to catch up with China's playbook in developing countries.

Last month, at the G-7 summit in the UK, the new US President Joe Biden, along with key US allies, launched the Build Back Better World (B3W) Partnership. The stated aim of the B3W framework is to help the low-income and middle-income countries with their infrastructure development needs, especially concerning areas of climate change, health security, digital technology, and gender divide. Hundreds of billions of dollars of infrastructure development funding is being promised to the world in the future.

The G7 is planning to mobilize infrastructure investments by working with the private sector and development sector stakeholders. The US is planning to use its development arms (e.g. USAID, DFC and EXIM Bank) to catalyze such investments. Reading between the lines, it appears that individual G7 countries – Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK and US – will look after infrastructure projects in specific regions, and the sum total will be referred to as B3W investments across multiple continents.

On paper, this kind of race between China and the US-led alliance over wooing third countries via economic-development is a good omen to bridge infrastructure gaps in developing world. An economic competition between China and US is better than outright

conflict. This emerging race should relieve China's allies like Pakistan that fear repercussions of siding with China if the Sino-US rivalry becomes more intensified. Officials here have indicated openness to both US-led and Chinese investments.

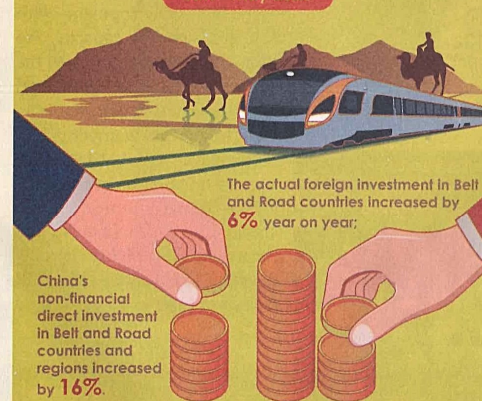
The B3W program has received criticism, too. For instance, some observers feel this initiative is woefully short on specifics, akin to a statement of intent. Others grumble that the West is only now waking up to its developmental role when China's BRI has grown massive in scale to multi-trillion-dollar investments across dozens of countries in several continents. In addition, some wonder what will be different about B3W if it also exports a prosperous country's internal competitiveness abroad in poor regions.

It may take some time for B3W modalities – including the identification of the scale and scope of infrastructure investments, type of financing models, governance standards, sustainability guidelines, and qualification criteria for recipient countries – to be nailed down. Right now, the Western countries remain focused on tackling the pandemic and reviving their own economies. Therefore, do not expect funding to start raining down anytime soon!

Then, there are issues to be sorted out within the G7 as well. For instance, the US seems much more upbeat about B3W than its G7 counterparts, as major European countries do not wish to antagonize China. Wooing private sector investment on such a large scale will also be a challenge, considering the low and long-term nature of returns from public infrastructure projects. And if B3W investments come with strict conditionalities ala IFIs, recipient countries may walk away. Let's see how incentives line up on both sides in the coming years.

Belt and Road during the COVID-19 outbreak

Jan – May 2020



Belt and Road during the COVID-19 outbreak

Steady progress has been made in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, China - Laos Railway, Budapest-Belgrade rail line, Dual-fuel plant in Cambodia, the new administrative capital project in Egypt, all of which have provided strong impetus for these countries to overcome the pandemic and boost their economies.



Belt and Road during the COVID-19 outbreak

Jan - May 2020

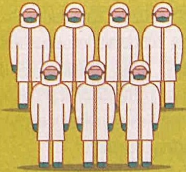
The number and shipment volume of China-Europe trains increased by **28%** and **32%**, respectively.



and the cumulative delivery of anti-pandemic supplies reached **12,524 tons**.

Belt and Road during the COVID-19 outbreak

China works with Belt and Road countries to vigorously promote the building of the "Silk Road of Health."



China has provided assistance to **122** Belt and Road partners in fighting against COVID-19, sent teams of medical experts to **25** countries.

and held **video conferences** with Belt and Road countries to share COVID-19 treatment and control experience.



international public good. Take CPEC as an example, various activities have already been held in many places around the world to promote CPEC third-party cooperation, such as Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, and Singapore.

Fifth, the BRI sets its goal high, that is for a better life, and sets its standard high, that is for green development. According to a World Bank study, the BRI could help lift 7.6 million people out of extreme poverty and 32 million people out of moderate poverty. It could boost trade by 2.8 to 9.7 percent for the BRI countries, and increase the global real income by 0.7 to 2.9 percent. The BRI is also striving to build a community of harmony between humanity and nature, and has launched a series of green action initiatives, including green infrastructure construction, green energy, green transport and green finance. To create a just and reasonable global environmental governance system through eco-environmental cooperation, now becomes the feature of the BRI.

The above-mentioned characteristics are all embodied in the development of CPEC, the pilot project of the BRI. With our joint efforts, 46 CPEC projects have been completed or are under construction, with a total investment of US\$25.4 billion, and bring about 75 thousand job

China's Belt and Road Investment Map

Chinese BRI investments by world region in 2020 (in billion U.S. dollars)



opportunities at its peak. Against the backdrop of Covid-19, the CPEC projects strictly complied with the SOPs and went on smoothly without suspension, withdrawal of people, or any layoffs of workers.

Look forward to the future, as Foreign Minister Qureshi pointed out at the Asia and Pacific High-Level Conference on Belt and Road Cooperation; "We must seize this opportunity to transform our economies into ones that are development-oriented and environmentally sustainable".

China and Pakistan should enhance cooperation in promoting high-quality development of CPEC, give more focus to industry, agriculture, and ICT sectors, so as to enhance export competitiveness, increase export and tax revenues, and achieve sustainable development with better production capacity. We should also jointly put forth the Initiative for Belt and Road Partnership on Green Development to inject new impetus into building the green CPEC, and step up cooperation in areas like green infrastructure, green energy and green finance, and set a new pilot for high-quality development under the BRI framework. ■

The writer is the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan.

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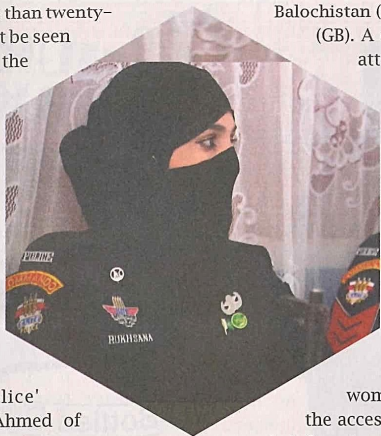


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25th January 1994, first woman police station was inaugurated in Rawalpindi, Punjab. The step was considered a milestone and a way forward for access to justice, police reforms and for protection of women in Pakistan.

The initiative is now more than twenty-seven years old. This must be seen

as a moment of celebration, but, at the same time, it is important to take a pause and consider what has been the outcome of the whole initiative and how it should be strategically leveraged in future. For this, few points are being highlighted which may help in informing the policymakers, legal and police practitioners and civil society working on the subject: One, in terms of numbers, the initiative has been replicated in all the provinces. According to a report titled as 'Women in Police' published by Ms. Gulmina Bilal Ahmed of Individualland, by 2012, there were sixteen women police stations in Pakistan. Since 2012, new developments have taken place. The updated information is that as of today, there are nineteen women police stations in



the country. The breakdown is as follows: one in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), three in Punjab (Lahore, Rawalpindi, Faisalabad), five in Sindh (three in Karachi and one each in Hyderabad and Larkana), two in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Peshawar and Abbottabad), one in Balochistan (Quetta) and seven in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). A cursory look at these numbers begs attention to many a fact.

In the first place, these numbers should be recorded officially; preferably through Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) that does count total number of police stations, but not segregating the data of women police stations. In addition, the numbers show that the spread is not geographically even and has not been linked to population or number of cases registered. Therefore, there is a need to map the infrastructure of women police stations to better examine the access to justice for women and to gauge their functionality.

Two, the legal framework is not enabling. The archaic Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, (the Code) is primarily designed on territorial lines. Contrary to this territorial

Kamran Adil

Women Police Stations

Police Reforms and Gender-Based Violence



www.jworldtimes.com August 2021

scheme of the Code, the women police stations are oriented on functional basis. Unfortunately, a territorially situated police station is more convenient as it offers more access to a victim as compared to a women police station in a big city. From the viewpoint of victim living far away from a women police station, it is not possible to access the police station multiple times. For example, a woman victim of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) from Murree should not be expected to get her case registered in Women Police Station, Rawalpindi, which is situated over eighty kilometres away from her place of residence. Owing to the distance involved, there is every likelihood that a victim located in Murree may like to get her case registered there for the sake of convenience and legal reasons.

The case that gets registered in a women police station is likely to be adjudicated by territorial magistrate/court. Amongst other factors, this is the single most important factor that has kept the initiative relatively less robust.

Three, mainstreaming of the concept of women police stations in police reforms discourse. The literature on police reforms evinces that it does not accord the issue the primacy it deserves. One reason for this could be that most of the time and energy of proponents of police reforms is consumed in underscoring the importance of larger themes of the rule of law in the country, which are not ideal. Nonetheless, there is a strong case to make GBV and women protection part of main police reforms discourse to attract maximum number of civil society and citizens to the larger issue of criminal justice reforms and better service delivery.

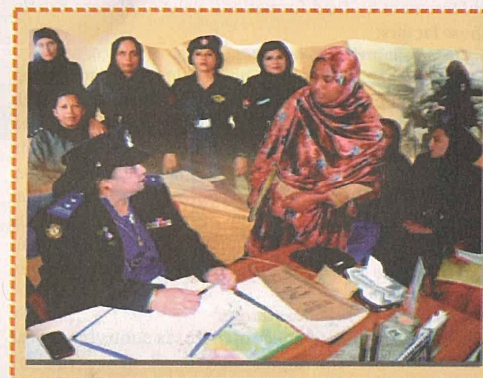
Four, the competition for resources between women police stations and regular police stations is not at par. Owing to territorial and legal aspects of women police stations, resources often get allocated to territorial units of police than to the functional units. Police leadership tries to address this issue, but things tilt in favour of territorial police stations because of obvious reasons. Information technology may help in this regard as registration of crime may be made territorial-neutral by amending the law and by providing enabling legal provisions for police, prosecution and judiciary to take a more tailored approach towards victims of GBV cases. Five, evidence collection and its processing in criminal cases in general, and in GBV cases in particular, need special attention. More often than not, emphasis is laid on DNA evidence, which is but part of larger spectrum of

forensic evidence. Medical evidence, which is easy and efficient to collect and process, is not being accorded much attention. The medical universities have to develop uniform and easy-to-comprehend medico-legal forms that can be used in GBV cases. The medico-legal experts must be offered protection from unnecessary summoning in criminal

trials by offering them protection under law; only in exceptional cases and subject to very defined circumstances the medico-legal experts be summoned in courts. Likewise, para-medico-legal staff should be well trained in GBV cases. The women police stations may be staffed with medico-legal experts to mainstream them in criminal justice system.

Establishing women police stations was a step towards functional specialization, which is the dominant trend in developed world. The initiative has sustained twenty-seven years is in itself a reason to build on it. The total number of women police officers is steadily increasing due to quota-based employment in public sector. This number, however, is still much less than the required. There is need to add at least equal number of female medico-legal officers, prosecutors and judges to bring in desired results. The induction of female police officers and their placement at women police stations may be part of a larger strategy as the whole value chain at criminal justice system has to be addressed to bring about a qualitative change in the situation on the ground. ■

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Bilal Hassan

Primarily, achievement of the tax revenue target assigned by the government remains top priority of the FBR. For the financial year 2020-21, the government assigned a tax target of about Rs.4.7 trillion. Achieving this mammoth tax revenue target was an uphill task due to sluggish economic activity amidst adverse effects of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Surprisingly, the FBR not only achieved tax revenue but also surpassed it by 18% over the last financial year. The FBR also disbursed tax refunds to the tune of Rs.251 billion compared to Rs.135 billion paid last year, showing an increase of 86%. This is an historic achievement, especially when different quarters were guessing that the FBR will miss tax target by a wide margin. The Prime Minister left no time to congratulate entire team of FBR for this historic achievement. The improved revenue performance was due to adoption of 'no-undue' advances policy as well as effective enforcement by field formations. Below I discuss briefly those factors:

1. Change in jurisdiction of taxpayers

The FBR has adopted a novel idea of transferring jurisdiction of large taxpayers having considerably high turnover to Large Tax Offices (LTOs) and Corporate Tax Offices (CTOs) in the beginning of the tax year 2021. This policy was the brainchild of FBR's Member Operations, who also transferred officers renowned for professional competence and integrity from different offices to LTOs and CTOs. The LTOs and CTOs with skilled human resource have largely contributed towards realizing tax revenue target.

2. Change in policy of tax audits

The FBR has followed policy of more tax audits in tax year 2021. Member Operations played an active role by

motivating field officers engaged in tax audits through video link conferences to create good quality demand. Partial tax demands recovery by the tax authorities also contributed in overall tax collection.

3. Agreed assessments

The government introduced a policy of agreed assessment under section 122D of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001. A considerable number of tax audits might have been concluded through agreed assessments wherein the taxpayers might have opted to deposit settled tax amounts instead of going into litigation, which is not only time-consuming but also too costly.

4. Increased level of tax compliance

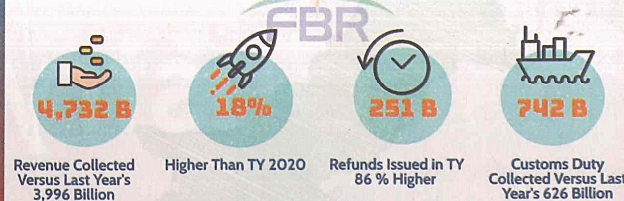
Improved level of tax compliance reflected in increased tax return filing trend has also contributed to improved revenue collection. The FBR has adopted strategic policy to broaden tax base. Increased tax rates on transactions of non-filers coupled with administrative penalties have forced potential taxable persons to file tax returns. As on June 30, 2021, income tax returns for tax year 2020 have reached 3.01 million, compared to 2.67 million in tax year 2019, showing an increase of 12.5%. The tax deposited with returns was Rs.52 billion, compared to only Rs.34.3 billion last year, showing an increase of 52.1% as reported by the FBR on its website.

5. Enhanced use of technology

To control tax evasion, the FBR has made it mandatory for

Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) is the principal tax revenue collecting agency in Pakistan. It is responsible for collecting income tax, sales tax, federal excise duty and customs duty by enforcing the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001, the Sales Tax Act, 1990, the Federal Excise Act, 2005, and the Customs Act, 1969. In the recent past, responsibility to enforce the Anti-Money Laundering Act, 2010, and the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 2017, has also been entrusted upon the FBR. In fact, scope of responsibilities, functions and powers of the FBR has been expanded. The FBR administers implementation of laws and rules and regulations through Large Tax Offices, Corporate Tax Offices, Medium Tax Offices, Regional Tax Offices, Custom Collectors and Regional Directorates.

TAX YEAR 2021 AT A GLANCE



the retailers to integrate their sales points with its system for real-time reporting of sales. According to the information released by the FBR, as many as 11,100 point of sale terminals have been integrated with real-time reporting system of the FBR. Real-time reporting of sales has definitely contributed toward increased sales tax revenue as well as income tax withholding tax revenue.

6. Role of Directorate General of I & I-IR

The Directorate General of Intelligence & Investigation-IR showed commendable performance during the past year as it forwarded 1,608 Investigation Reports and Red Alerts to the field formations involving revenue amounting to Rs.244 billion. Furthermore, 71 complaints under Anti-Money Laundering Act, 2010, involving a revenue Rs.62 billion were forwarded to the field formations. The deterrence effect against tax evasion created by the Directorates Intelligence & Investigation-IR through investigations and prosecution certainly has positive impact on overall tax collection during the financial year 2020-21.

7. Role of Customs authorities

Pakistan Customs has collected Rs.742 billion under the head of customs duty in financial year 2020-21 against the assigned target of Rs.640 billion - thus it exceeded its target by Rs.102 billion which is 16% more than the assigned target. An additional amount of Rs.117 billion was collected under the head of customs duty in financial year 2020-21 as compared to financial year 2019-20, showing a growth of 18% from the previous financial year. More importantly, during financial year 2020-21, smuggled goods worth Rs.57.7 billion have been seized as compared to those worth Rs.36 billion in financial year 2019-20 - an increase of 58%.

Besides above factors, the government has withdrawn various exemptions by amending the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001, through ordinances during financial year 2021.

Conclusion

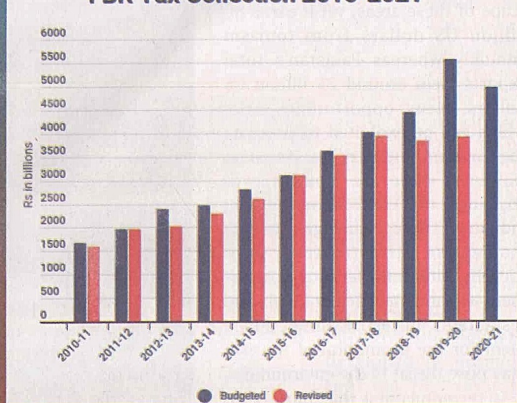
The government announced budget 2021-22 together with Finance Bill 2022 on 11 June 2021. The government has fixed Rs.7.909 trillion revenue target, which will be achieved by collecting Rs.5.829 trillion in tax revenue and Rs.2.08 trillion non-tax

revenue. The FBR will certainly achieve this target as a number of policy- and enforcement-related measures have been introduced through the Finance Act, 2022. For example, capital gain tax rates have been enhanced on disposal of immovable properties. The gain arising on the disposal of immovable property with holding period of more than 4 years is not taxable. However, capital gain arising on the disposal of immovable properties is taxable to the extent of

100%, 75%, 50% and 25%, if holding period of property is 1, 2, 3 and 4 years, respectively. The capital gain calculated on the basis of holding period would be taxable at the rates ranging from 3.5% to 15%. Summarily, gifts received from certain persons would be taxable in the hands of recipients. For this purpose, the provision has been broadened to exclude gifts received from relatives to prevent tax avoidance on gifts. Many other provisions of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001, have been either amended or new provisions have been inserted to enhance tax collection in the forthcoming financial year. Among enforcement measures, where on the basis of material evidence brought on record as a result of audit, the taxpayer has found to be committed the offence of concealment of income which has resulted in non-payment of tax of Rs.100 million and above in case of a filer and Rs. 25 million or above in case of non-filer, the tax authorities have been given powers to arrest such taxpayer(s).

The author is serving as Additional Commissioner Inland Revenue at Federal Board of Revenue, Pakistan. He can be contacted at bilal.hassan@fbr.gov.pk

FBR Tax Collection 2010-2021



Challenges to the Tourism Industry in Pakistan

... and the Way Forward



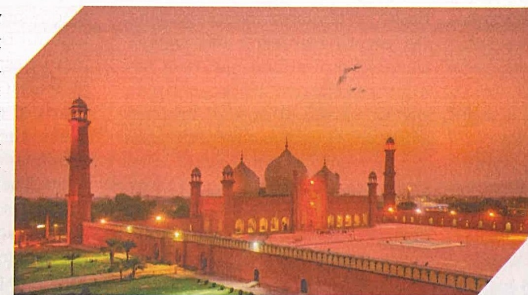
There are no two opinions about the fact that tourism carries a lot of advantages for Pakistan. Prime Minister Imran Khan has rightly said that tourism offered excellent potential for boosting the country's revenue and employment opportunities. He further quoted the example of Switzerland which is half the size of our northern areas and not more serene or beautiful than the landscape of these areas, yet it earns 80 billion US dollars from tourism annually whereas Pakistan's total exports yield around 25 billion US dollars. Many opportunities exist which can be exploited to promote the tourism industry in Pakistan. However, there are a number of challenges that confront our tourism industry. These challenges include inadequate infrastructure, poor security situation, lack of government will and insufficient hotels and restaurants. Infrastructure development for the promotion of tourism may pose threat to the environment. It is recommended that more sites



Muhammad Asim Jasra

may be developed and added to the list of places of tourist significance, infrastructure be developed, more hotels and restaurants be built and tourist-friendly policies be made. Pakistan's foreign office and embassies may be engaged in conducting awareness seminars regarding the tourist attractions in Pakistan. Tourist facilitation centres may be established in all the areas of tourist significance to help the foreign and local tourists. This treatise would throw light on the challenges confronting tourism and suggest some measures to overcome these challenges. Challenges confronting the tourism industry in Pakistan are explained in the following paragraphs. Lack of adequate infrastructure is the biggest hurdle in the way of promotion of tourism in Pakistan. Adequate infrastructure includes road network, railway tracks, airports, supply of electricity and gas and certain other amenities. Without proper infrastructure, tourism cannot be promoted. The same is the case in Pakistan where many tourist destinations lack infrastructure. Access to tourist destinations in hilly areas is difficult and dangerous because of land-sliding and inadequate infrastructure. Certain amenities are not available at our tourist destinations. Thus, inadequate infrastructure is a big hindrance in the way of promotion of tourism in Pakistan.

The poor security situation for the last more than one decade in Pakistan is responsible for a halt in tourist activities. Many foreign tourists were killed in terrorist attacks in Pakistan which discouraged tourism here. These terrorist activities also brought a bad name to Pakistan. One such



Take the example of Shogran - a

buildings and roads. Only less than 4 percent of the land area of Pakistan is covered with forests whereas it is recommended by the United Nations that at least 25 percent of the total land area of any country should be covered with forests. It is interesting to note that 49 percent of the land area of Russia is covered with forests. Keeping in view Pakistan has less land area. Therefore, the plantation construction industry poses

fronting the e been dis- paragraphs. me measures akistan. ny potential t in Pakistan st of tourist eas of scenic ave not been sts at large. ample. It is urree and e of around mabad. The iscovered by 1840s. They hill resorts eat but later neglected.

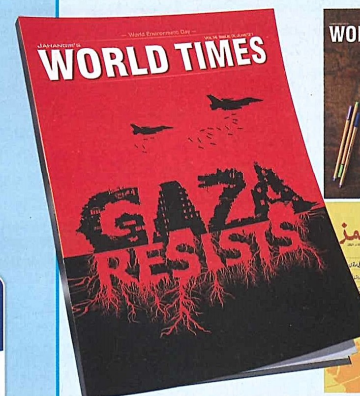
Other neglected areas are Fort Munro situated near Dera Ghazi Khan, the heritage sites of Tharparkar and Bhit Khori beach. These neglected areas may become popular tourist spots if proper attention is given to them. Infrastructure should be developed to promote tourism in Pakistan.

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foreign tourists to come and visit our tourist destinations. Thus, lack of will on the part of successive governments remained a big hindrance in the promotion of tourism in Pakistan. Another challenge for the tourism industry is the limited number of hotels and restaurants on or near tourist spots.



Challenges to the Tourism Industry in Pakistan

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exports yield around 25 billion US dollars. Many opportunities exist which can be exploited to promote the tourism industry in Pakistan. However, there are a number of challenges that confront our tourism industry. These challenges include inadequate infrastructure, poor security situation, lack of government will and insufficient hotels and restaurants. Infrastructure development for the promotion of tourism may pose threat to the environment. It is recommended that more sites

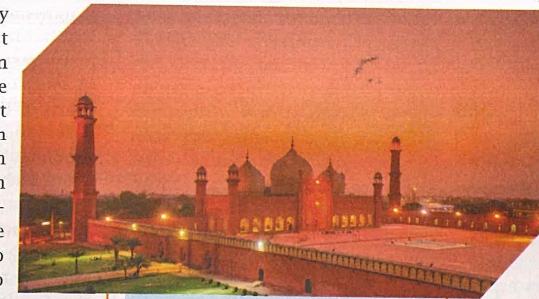


and certain other amenities. Without proper infrastructure, tourism cannot be promoted. The same is the case in Pakistan where many tourist destinations lack infrastructure. Access to tourist destinations in hilly areas is difficult and dangerous because of land-sliding and inadequate infrastructure. Certain amenities are not available at our tourist destinations. Thus, inadequate infrastructure is a big hindrance in the way of promotion of tourism in Pakistan.

The poor security situation for the last more than one decade in Pakistan is responsible for a halt in tourist activities. Many foreign tourists were killed in terrorist attacks in Pakistan which discouraged tourism here. These terrorist activities also brought a bad name to Pakistan. One such infamous incident of terrorism happened at the base camp of Nanga Parbat - the world's 9th highest mountain situated in Gilgit-Baltistan - in June 2013 where nine foreign tourists were killed. This incident in particular, and other terrorist activities in general, discouraged tourism in Pakistan. Hence, terrorism is held responsible for the poor state of the tourism industry in Pakistan.

Lack of will of successive governments in Pakistan is also a culprit in the context of tourism. No government made sustainable efforts to promote tourism in Pakistan. There are so many steps which should have been taken by the governments to promote tourism. These steps include infrastructure development, tourist-friendly visa policies, facilitation desks for tourists, provision of better security and advertisement and projection of tourist destinations in Pakistan. Much more could be done to provide a friendly environment for the

foreign tourists to come and visit our tourist destinations. Thus, lack of will on the part of successive governments remained a big hindrance in the promotion of tourism in Pakistan. Another challenge for the tourism industry is the limited number of hotels and restaurants on or near tourist spots.



Take the example of Shogran - a famous tourist spot in Pakistan - and one can count the number of accommodation facilities on one's fingers. If we want to attract foreign tourists, we require accommodation of international standard. Any tourist destination which lacks proper accommodation facilities fails to attract tourists. Not only the number of hotels on the tourist spots is limited but also the quality of accommodation is poor. Thus, the lack of accommodation facilities of an appropriate standard is also a challenge confronting the tourism industry in Pakistan.

As we make efforts to promote tourism, we have to keep in mind that there may be a threat to the ecosystem or the environment. When infrastructure is developed, road or rail networks are constructed, hotels and restaurants are constructed, and other amenities are built, they may replace the plantation cover in the area. Thus, the plants and the green belts are likely to be replaced by

buildings and roads. Only less than 4 percent of the land area of Pakistan is covered with forests whereas it is recommended by the United Nations that at least 25 percent of the total land area of any country should be covered with forests. It is interesting to note that 49 percent of the land area of Russia is

covered with forests. Keeping in view these statistics, Pakistan has comparatively very less land area covered by the forests. Therefore, further removal of the plantation cover because of construction related to the tourism industry poses a big challenge.

Some challenges confronting the tourism industry have been discussed in the preceding paragraphs. Now I would suggest some measures to promote tourism in Pakistan.

It is suggested that many potential tourist spots which exist in Pakistan may be added to the list of tourist spots. There are many areas of scenic beauty in Pakistan that have not been explored by the tourists at large. Galyat is one such example. It is located between Murree and Abbottabad at a distance of around 60 kilometre from Islamabad. The Galyat tracts were first discovered by British officials in the 1840s. They developed these sites as hill resorts to escape the summer heat but later on, these tracts were neglected.

Other neglected areas are Fort Munro situated near Dera Ghazi Khan, the heritage sites of Tharparkar and Bhit Khori beach. These neglected areas may become popular tourist spots if proper attention is given to them.

Infrastructure should be developed to promote tourism in Pakistan.



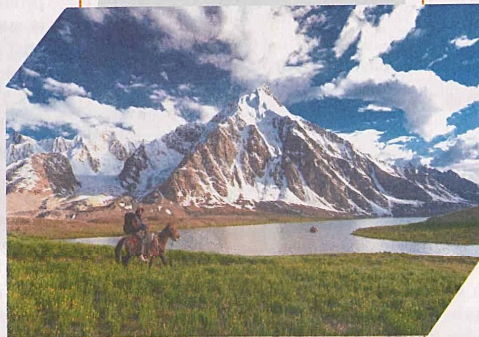
Roads leading to the tourist spots should be constructed. The threat of land-sliding should be tackled by taking precautionary measures. Railway tracks may be built where necessary. Feasibility of air travel to certain tourist spots may be prepared and steps should be taken to provide the facility of air travel where it is convenient. The focus should be on comfortable and safe access to the tourist resorts especially situated in the hilly areas. More hotels and restaurants of international standard should be built to accommodate the choices of the foreign tourists. To cut it short, infrastructure development should be the priority of the government.

Another mandatory step for the promotion of tourism in Pakistan is that the government should make policies for the protection of the rights of the tourists. Recently, there was news on social media that the residents of Murree, a hill resort in the Rawalpindi district, misbehaved with the tourists. Then a new trend on social media started which instigated the tourists to boycott visiting Murree. That was very dangerous for the tourist industry in Pakistan. There is a dire need to make policies for the protection of the tourists' rights. Rates of the accommodation facilities should be regulated by the government.

And strict action should be taken by the government institutions including police in case of infringement of the rights of tourists. Thus, the government should make policies that ensure the protection of tourists' rights in order to promote tourism in Pakistan. Improving security situation is indispensable to encouraging tourism. For over a decade, terrorism played havoc with all the sectors of the economy including tourism —

the losses of human lives aside. Now, the security situation has significantly improved and terrorism has been exterminated to a larger extent, thanks to the efforts of Pakistan army, police, its Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) and other Law-enforcement Agencies (LEAs). However, our security forces need to be vigilant and conducting intelligence-led operations to prevent any such untoward incidents that not only discouraged tourism in the country but also brought a bad name to the country. Law and order situation should be under control. Police should be strengthened to control street crime because even the incidents of street crime may repel foreign tourists. Thus, improving the security situation is vital for the growth of the tourism industry.

It is also suggested that an awareness campaign regarding the tourist spots in Pakistan should be launched on



electronic and print media. Moreover, social media can help a lot in the promotion of tourism. The Government of Pakistan may engage its embassies in other countries of the world. These embassies may be tasked to conduct awareness seminars regarding the tourism potential in Pakistan. Documentaries and advertisements can be made and publicized to attract more tourists to Pakistan. Thus, awareness regarding the opportunities of tourism in Pakistan is helpful for the promotion

of tourism here.

Last but not least, facilitation desks may be established for the guidance of tourists. This step will win the hearts of tourists. These facilitation desks should be established at a prominent place near the tourist spots. They may be asked to provide brochures regarding certain tourist spots which will be handy to provide the required information regarding the tourist place. Other functions of the facilitation desks may be to answer the queries of the tourists and help them in finding the desired accommodation. Services of these facilitation desks should be available round the clock. These facilitation desks will not only create a good image of Pakistan as a host country but will also promote tourism here.

To conclude, it can be stated that promoting tourism is in the best interest of Pakistan. There are certain hurdles in the way of the promotion of tourism in Pakistan yet these can be overcome by adopting certain measures. This article explained these challenges one by one which includes lack of infrastructure, poor security situation, lack of government will and certain environmental threats. In the end, this article suggested some measures for the promotion of tourism in Pakistan. Exploring and advertising more sites for tourism, developing infra-

structure, building more world-class accommodation facilities and making policies for the guidance and comfort of the tourists will go a long way in the promotion of tourism in Pakistan. It is hoped that if these recommendations are adopted and implemented by the government, the true potential of tourism can be exploited which will bring about a revolution in improving the economy and creating business opportunities in Pakistan. ■

At a time when the United States is looking to maintain a counterterrorism infrastructure in the region following its withdrawal from Afghanistan, Pakistan has refused to host US bases on its soil. In an interview with Axios HBO, Prime Minister Imran Khan categorically stated that he would not allow the US to use Pakistan as a base for its Afghan operations. "Absolutely not! There is no way we are going to allow any bases, any sort of action from Pakistani territory into Afghanistan. Absolutely not," Khan said. The PM's stance makes it pretty clear that he does not want Pakistan to repeat the mistakes made in the past. It has been his longstanding view that the US-led War on Terror, which toppled the Taliban regime, with Pakistan serving as a frontline state, was not "our war," and we should no more act as anybody's proxy. Indeed, the War on Terror — and before that the Afghan war against the Soviets — took a heavy toll on Pakistan in areas ranging from economy to internal and external security and to our social life.



A Turning Point in Pak-US Relations

Hassaan Bin Zubair



Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan has vociferously opposed his country's past dealings with the United States. Before coming into power, Khan was a staunch critic of US drone strikes in Pakistan, even launching a campaign against them. However, his criticism was not merely directed toward the United States and its high-handed behaviour; he also lambasted successive Pakistani governments for what he considered selfish, interest-based connivance with Washington. Therefore, in his enunciations before assuming power, Khan had vowed to fight the war on terror without being perceived as an appendage of the US.

Now as Washington is looking to maintain a counterterrorism infrastructure in the post-withdrawal Afghanistan, Pakistani authorities have refused to host bases for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Prime Minister Khan is adamant that Pakistan will not provide the US any bases or assistance in counterterrorism operations. In an op-ed, published in the Washington Post, PM Khan wrote: "Pakistan is ready to be a partner for peace in Afghanistan with the United States — but as US troops withdraw, we will avoid risking further conflict ... Our country has suffered so much from the wars in Afghanistan. More than 70,000 Pakistanis have been

killed. While the United States provided \$20 billion in aid, losses to the Pakistani economy have exceeded \$150 billion. Tourism and investment dried up. After joining the US effort, Pakistan was targeted as a collaborator, leading to terrorism against our country from the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan and other groups. US drone attacks, which I warned against, didn't win the war, but they did create hatred for Americans, swelling the ranks of terrorist groups against both our countries."

The principal reasons why PM Khan has clearly said that Pakistan will not give its bases to the US for operations in Afghanistan after the latter's troops' withdrawal are as follows:

1. PM Khan has argued for years that there was no military solution in Afghanistan. He has been a strong critic of all previous Pakistani governments as he maintains that they all worked under US pressure, made important policy concessions, and refrained from making a clear choice in matters relating to the Pakistan-US relations. So, the consistency with which he has opposed the past dealings with Washington has left little room for him to acquiesce to US requests. He denounces as "idiocy" his country's past policy of becoming a "front-line state" in the US-led war against terrorism in Afghanistan, blaming the policy for the persistent security and economic challenges facing

Islamabad.

2. If Pakistan were to agree to host US bases, from which to bomb Afghanistan, and an Afghan civil war ensued, the country would be targeted for revenge by terrorists again. As Khan asserts, "We simply cannot afford this. We have already paid too heavy a price. Meanwhile, if the United States, with the most powerful military machine in history, couldn't win the war from inside Afghanistan after 20 years, how would America do it from bases in our country?" Moreover, Pakistan aiding the United States in its efforts to keep an eye on the Taliban would likely vitiate the country's ties with the powerful Afghan group because it is becoming vividly clear that they will be the most dominant player in the future Afghan political landscape. In addition, Pakistan has suffered a lot for its support to extra-regional forces for operations inside Afghanistan. Therefore, it has decided very wisely to declare that there is 'absolutely no'

"While the war in Afghanistan is not militarily winnable, peace in Afghanistan is still winnable if we reinvigorate the peace process."

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan



chance that it will provide any space to external forces for any kind of military operations inside Afghanistan from Pakistani soil.

3. Currently, Taliban are expanding their control over more and more areas of Afghanistan, and it is no less than a writing on the wall that they will hold power in the future political setup of the country. In such a milieu, Pakistan appearing to help the United States retain combat and surveillance capabilities meant to be used against the Taliban and other groups would not go down well with the Taliban. In a recent statement, Taliban 'urged' "neighbouring countries not to allow anyone to [allow the United States to operate military bases on their soil] ... [i]f such a step is taken again, it will be a great and historic mistake and disgrace." So, the Taliban would certainly not

welcome Pakistan taking such a step. They could accuse Pakistan of wilting under US pressure. The ill-will that could emanate from strained Pakistan-Taliban ties could hurt Pakistan's core interests, especially those that relate to the presence of terrorist safe havens in Afghanistan. If Islamabad is seen as a veritable linchpin of Washington's over-the-horizon counterterrorism scaffold, the Taliban could go on to encourage inimical outfits to target Pakistan. Pakistan is establishing an inexorable linkage between the prospect of bolstering regional connectivity and peace in Afghanistan, eliciting the Taliban's unfriendliness would be tantamount to shooting itself in the foot. In other words, Pakistan will seek to avoid being seen as an actor doing Washington's bidding.

4. If Pakistan allows the US to use military bases for carrying out combat missions, it will likely be a cause of concern for two of Pakistan's neighbours: China and Iran — both the adversaries of the United States. Washington has termed Beijing the biggest threat to US national security. Coupled with the US aversion to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), this means that should Pakistan allow US forces to operate out of its territory, Washington would almost certainly use that advantage to keep tabs on CPEC, which is expected to



expand and gain momentum. Both Pakistan and China would not like to see the US physically lurking around CPEC hotspots, including the critical Gwadar port. Other than China, Iran will also be directly affected if Pakistan allows the US to ensconce itself close to that country. Should Pakistan commit to giving bases to the US, not only will Khan's bid to reset ties with Iran be discredited but also his role as a mediator in the conflicts involving Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the US will be questioned. Additionally, Pakistan's delicate balancing act in the Middle East will be disturbed, something which would present a plethora of challenges laden with grievous security implications for Pakistani policymakers to contend with.

5. In his Washington Post article, PM Khan reminded the United States that "Our country has suffered so much from the wars in Afghanistan. More than 70,000 Pakistanis have been killed. While the United States provided \$20 billion in aid, losses to the Pakistani economy have exceeded \$150 billion. Tourism and investment dried up. After joining the US effort, Pakistan was targeted as a collaborator, leading to terrorism against our country from the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan and other groups. US drone attacks, which I warned against, didn't win the war, but they did create hatred for Americans, swelling the ranks of terrorist groups against both our countries. ... There are more than 3 million Afghan refugees in our country — if there is further civil war, instead of a political settlement, there will be many more refugees, destabilizing and further impoverishing the frontier areas on our border." So, no recognition of Pakistan's sacrifices is also a source of public anger in Pakistan. PM Khan has echoed this sentiment and it is another prime reason why he will not allow US bases on Pakistani soil.

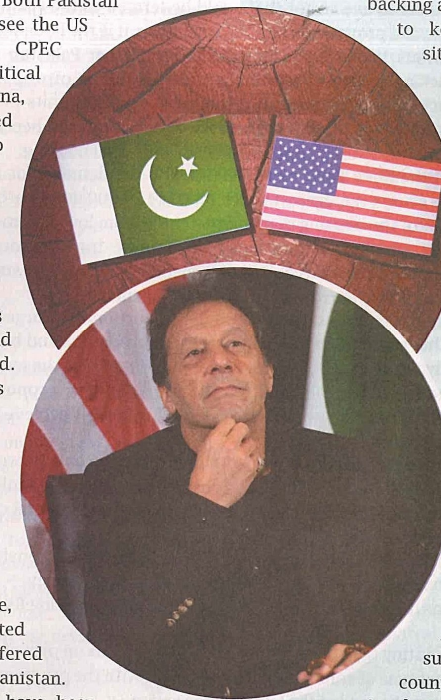
6. Given the American reach out to India as a defence and strategic partner, Pakistan's reliance on the US over the last many years has become doubtful and no more reliable to seek strategic military

backing against the Indian threat. Therefore, to keep the country's own security situation in balance, Pakistan had to look up to China as well as warming up its relations with Russia. Moscow and Beijing have already worked with Iran. One has partnered with it in the battlefield in Syria while the other has agreed to provide \$400 billion as an economic aid to Iran during the next 25 years. So if one regional power is acting as the economic guarantor for the regional stakeholders and the other as the security grantor, there is all the possibility of creation of conditions on ground which can encourage outside participation to rebuild Afghanistan under not a unipolar but multipolar arrangement.

The one big reality looking in our face is that post-withdrawal Afghanistan and our denial to support even the smallest of US counterterrorism footprint to support its deep engagement in Afghanistan has finally prepared us to look to the other side and

free ourselves from the US dominance. The other side is the emerging era of global multipolarity in which China and Russia are positioning themselves as its leading regulators and architects. The 'absolutely not' comment of the PM clearly spells out an emerging Pakistan's great desire that it wants the world to treat it on no other basis but sovereign equality. ■

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Buying or owning a home is an emotional decision, and is a dream come true particularly for middle and lower income families, as home ownership can greatly improve living standards for them and provide necessary safety and security. Housing is an integral and vibrant part of any economy and it acts as a stimuli for growth by creating jobs and attracting investment through extensive and inclusive value chain. Not only in Pakistan but governments across the globe are aggressively working on promoting Housing and Construction sector due to its far-reaching social and economic influence. It is in this context that the government has started various projects under Naya Pakistan Housing Program (NPHP) with an aim to realize the promise made by Prime Minister Imran Khan for construction of five million houses in the country.



If there is one sector that could be termed as the Prime Minister's priority area in his idea of a prosperous and Naya Pakistan, it is the housing sector. It is especially because various housing sector surveys reveal that Pakistan is currently facing a housing backlog of almost 10 million units; 4 million of which is in urban areas alone. This backlog is increasing at a rate of 0.7 million units every year and thus shortage is expected to grow over 13 million by 2025. It has happened because the supply could not keep pace with the fast growing population in need of formal housing. According to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), the demand for urban housing is going up by 350,000 units every year, against which merely 150,000 units are being supplied. As per the data, more than 60% of the housing demand is coming from low-income segments, while the supply is predominantly catered to middle and upper middle-income groups. Therefore, there is an even greater mismatch in the provision of low-income housing. The situation becomes more complex due to feeble access of borrowers to mortgage financing. Evidence suggests that the current stock disproportionately targets high-income segments of the population that can absorb the rising prices of properties and buy with ready cash. This system has invariably left a huge portion of the population out of the market. At the very outset, the PTI government decided to put housing at the epicenter of its economic agenda for the country and since then, a host of efforts have been made to ultimately achieve a mammoth supply of 5 million houses in the country. Low-cost housing, in particular, is a vast area where no or little work has been done in Pakistan in the past. The Naya Pakistan Housing Scheme that envisaged building five million homes for the low-income group will remain a pipedream unless fundamental changes are made to the scheme using the customer lens. As of May 2021, while there has been traction in lending to construction companies — thanks to major tax concessions and the opportunity to whiten money — the actual number of low-cost housing loans is a paltry 610 with the disbursed amount being Rs1.3 billion for the entire banking industry. This disappointing figure is not due to the lack of focus on part of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). Rather, it's because of some fundamental issues with the programme whose creators neglected to review the primary need of the low-income group. The first disconnect was the eligibility restrictions imposed by the Naya Pakistan Housing and Development Authority (NAPHDA) for accessing the scheme. The SBP, after consultation with the industry, has now made three major changes that should result in higher loan disbursement. The facility has now waived the requirement of the minimum one-year-



HOUSING FINANCE

The road to 5 million houses

M. Sheraz

old housing unit. The restriction on the first transfer has also been removed albeit temporarily. The markup subsidy has been further reduced from 5pc to 3pc while increasing the amount to Rs10m. This will allow borrowers to equate the monthly loan instalment with their existing monthly rental.

Lastly, a new tier has been added to the existing three tiers. Tier 0 has been added to help microfinance banks extend loans up to Rs2 million. Microfinance banks can either use their funds or obtain funding from commercial banks. On the face of it, with a 40pc first loss provided by the government and subsidised lending by the SBP, the desired number of 5 million should be achievable given the housing shortfall of 12 million units.

However, housing has now become a priority initiative of the government and the country, under the current government, seems to have come a long way towards addressing the problem, although the journey has just begun and there is a long way to go. The SBP is playing a pivotal role through policy intervention and monitoring to facilitate and ensure enabling mortgage financing environment. For banks, lending to the sector remains a challenge owing to various reasons, including income evaluation for informal/ undocumented sector, demand and supply gap of housing units, unplanned and unapproved constructions at various sites, tedious documentation and inconducive mortgage charge creation process, etc.

In one of its report on the state of economy, the SBP had highlighted how mortgages usually hold a dominant position in the overall private sector credit in a large number of countries in Asia. The housing finance in the likes of Malaysia, South Korea, and Singapore falls in the range of 50–70 percent of the GDP.

The BRICS countries, for instance, have banks lending in lieu of housing finance that goes as high as 55 percent of GDP. Pakistan, on the other hand, lies at the other end of the extreme. Countless operational and procedural hiccups have kept Pakistani banks away from venturing aggressively in housing finance.

Land entitlement and registry are two key factors that could impede housing finance if not dealt with properly. Banks' robust risk assessment and compliance requirements mean critical information about ownership status, history and valuation of property, is seamlessly available at all times. When entitlement and other documentation is speedy and smooth, it makes matters

lot easier for banks to use properties as strong collaterals and disburse loans.

Land registration was a cumbersome procedure in Pakistan until very recently which kept the banks away from mortgage financing, as it involved transparency issues and bureaucratic hurdles. Furthermore, the housing backlog is further exacerbated by substantially low official property valuation rates and weak regulatory oversight of the real estate sector. Under documentation and overpriced properties are a result, which further increases the housing backlog. People in genuine need for housing are often left behind because of speculative pricing, where plot buying is rampant and is not backed by property development.

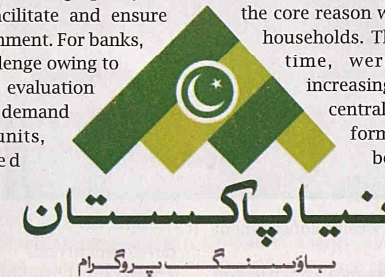
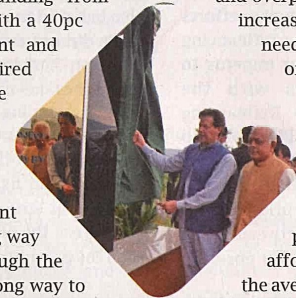
Affordability concerns have also presented challenges towards housing, as according to the State Bank of Pakistan, assuming a 15-year maturity period, the required monthly income to afford mortgage installments is over 3 times the average household income.

The legal framework has often been cited by banks as the core reason why banks shy away from lending to households. The foreclosure laws, for the longest time, were considered debtor-friendly, increasing the bank's risk exposure. The central bank amended the relevant laws and formulated the rules, which have also been upheld by the courts. This should go a long way in addressing some of the key concerns of the banks towards offering mortgages.

The government has undertaken significant steps having adopted a

six-pronged strategy to create an enabling environment for affordable housing finance. The land entitlement reforms are underway and relevant authorities in Punjab and Sindh have worked diligently towards the goal. Millions of old land records have been scanned, while tens of millions have been scanned. The property registration procedures have also been reduced by half, whereas the process has been expedited by cutting the registration days by a third to only 18. Use of technology has also been adopted, where Geographical Information System (GIS) is being used to map areas and being linked with scanned land records.

The government announced the Naya Pakistan Housing Project (NPHP) on October 10, 2018, with a rather ambitious aim to establish 5 million housing units across width and breadth of Pakistan, specifically to fulfil the housing needs of the lower-income class. The SBP, in a bid to further the government's aim devised a well-rounded



policy package for low-cost housing finance.

The SBP policy package has been instrumental in kickstarting the progress as it entails refinancing facility for low-cost housing for special segments, regulatory relaxations to banks, mandatory housing finance targets, among others. One big policy change that the SBP made was to assign commercial banks mandatory targets to increase housing and construction financing to at least 5 percent of their private loan portfolios by December 2021. The SBP's special note on the government's efforts for housing finance also lauds the government's efforts through the operationalization of mortgage refinancing company. The SBP note states that "further impetus to domestic mortgage financing comes with the operationalization of Pakistan Mortgage Refinancing Company (PMRC). Facilitated by the SBP, the PMRC aims to develop the primary mortgage market by: (i) providing financial resources so that primary mortgage lenders can grant more loans to households at fixed/hybrid rates for longer tenure; (ii) reducing the mismatch between house loan maturities and source of funds; and (iii) ensuring loan standardization across primary lending institutions."

The legal system and foreclosure laws have also seen improvement, with the FRO Act 2016 amended for the relevant clauses. The work on Real Estate Regulatory Authority in progress aims to provide more secure rights and protection to land-owners, and will keep speculative investments away, in addition to a crackdown on wealth concealment activities.

To further spur demand for housing finance, construction industry which is the mainstay of all housing activities has also been offered tremendous incentives. Last year, the government offered exemption from withholding tax rates, formation of national coordination committee on housing, construction and development, offered markup subsidy facility, implemented fixed tax rates, reduced number of NOCs, and provided one-window operations. All these steps are expected to yield good results down the road.

The government has also set up a special Steering Committee for Housing and Construction Finance that is tasked with facilitating and laying out guidelines around risk-acceptance criteria for builder selection and end-user mortgage financing, further regulatory facilitation for enabling environment, developing proxies for informal income assessment, offering standardized loan documentation and processing, facilitation for developers and housing finance under NAPHA projects and development of technology-based solution for customer information exchange between banks and

relevant government departments.

Changes have recently been made to make mortgage financing more viable and practical. By incorporating a new tier 0 (T0) and enhancing the limits of housing units' prices and loans for Tier 2 and Tier 3, banks are expected to be more aggressive towards offering mortgages.

Initially, the cap of housing price was too low, leaving banks with customers which had never been users of consumer finance and/or belonged to the low and low-middle income group. The cap on housing finance was also believed to be too low, and secondly, the rules of the game did not extend the subsidy to microfinance banks and Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs). That is where the take-off was slow, and changes had to be made. It is heartening to see the Naya Pakistan Housing Development Authority realizing the areas that needed attention. Microfinance banks and NBFCs have been now added to the list directly and indirectly, along with a revised tier structure for housing finance, that promises to address the affordability question to a greater extent than the previous structure.

The details of the revised limits and markups are readily available with the relevant institutions. What is clear is that the revised structure allows more genuine customers better access to housing finance at more affordable rates, in line with the buying power. Better land titles and foreclosure laws will help develop the ecosystem and encourage the private sector to be the major participant on the

development end.

The dream of 5 million housing units in 5 years may be too big, and some may even call it elusive, but it worth seeing, and worth working towards it. Achieving even a quarter of it, will do no harm to the country's economic prospects and to the people who will have a place to call "home".

The Naya Pakistan housing initiative can be a game-changer. To empower the low-income groups across Pakistan to own their homes is what dreams are made of. Building a home engages about 21 different industries and can have a significant impact on our stressed economy. Housing finance can be coupled with alternative energy solutions, general and personal insurance and clean water to make a lasting change on how the low-income group lives. However, to move this needle, good intentions are not enough and the pain points of the grassroots borrowers need to be addressed. The recent amendments are clearly a step in the right direction. Unfortunately, without the other changes, the promise of 5 million housing units in five years will remain a pipedream. ■

The writer is a member of staff.



Pakistan, especially the province of Punjab, is in dire need of adopting a "Made in Pakistan" strategy in terms of technology. The main instruments contributing to this technological transformation are: making heavy investments in new technologies, building a knowledge economy, raising governmental expenditures on research and development in higher education system and establishing research institutes for the stimulation of innovation development through free trade zones or special economic zones like Quaid-e-Azam Business Park, as well as intensive development of a wide net of bilateral and multilateral agreements on small and medium industries.

Mian Majid Ali Afzal



Pakistan should focus on innovation-stimulating policy to effect substantial changes in directions and sectoral structure of technological flows. In the past, Pakistan was blamed for cloning Chinese and US technologies and business models ('Copy China' strategy). In recent years, the trend has reversed. Western companies are looking to Pakistani youth, especially in internet-related and freelance areas, offering Pakistan an opportunity to transform from a recipient of foreign technological ideas into a driver of technological innovations. Pakistani industries are not only getting closer to the technological frontier in conventional areas such as electronics, machinery, automobiles assembling and aviation, but also driving technological innovations in emerging areas. Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) tend to be rather successful in creation of new combinations of component technologies. As Pakistan used to be, for decades, an international 'assembly manufactory' and the core element of global value-added chains, different research and development (R&D) activities were based inside the country, providing opportunities for new technological combinations.

The sectoral priorities are closely connected with contemporary trends on the advanced markets, and are also potential challenges and risks to Pakistan's long-term sustainable development.

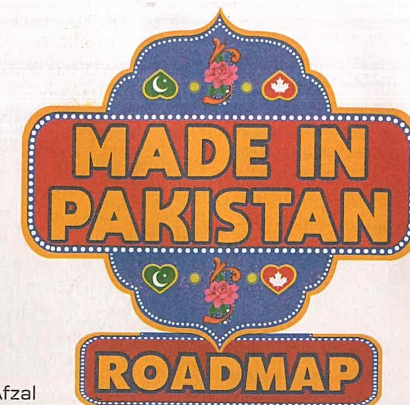
ment. The three major fields of novelty development can be outlined as:

1. Agricultural technologies – as the problems of ensuring food security become more acute. Positive population growth and rapid middle-class growth increase demand for agricultural products. At the same time, relatively lower productivity of agricultural workforce, together with rapid urbanization and gradual degradation of agricultural land, result in lower supply of agricultural produce.

2. Energy – mainly new and renewable sources of energy (solar, wind, biomass and nuclear), advanced nuclear energy should be explored. Pakistan remains one of the main energy-consumers despite an increasing scarcity of traditional energy sources. The contemporary policy aims at establishing a clean, low-carbon, safe and efficient modern energy system for sustainable growth, and achieving the goal of non-fossil energy.

3. Cyberspace – including information and telecommunications technologies of the next decade, big data and supercomputers, robotics and e-commerce which have both economic and political connotations. In addition to the anticipated adequate returns due to excessive demand on both domestic and external markets for these types of technologies and services, they become a strategic resource for strengthening Pakistan's positions in the international relations framework. The notion of 'international standing' has slowly changed, it is now defined not only by military or economic power but also by the power of opinion of the countries (Pakistan's Soft Power), their positioning in information and digital space. ■

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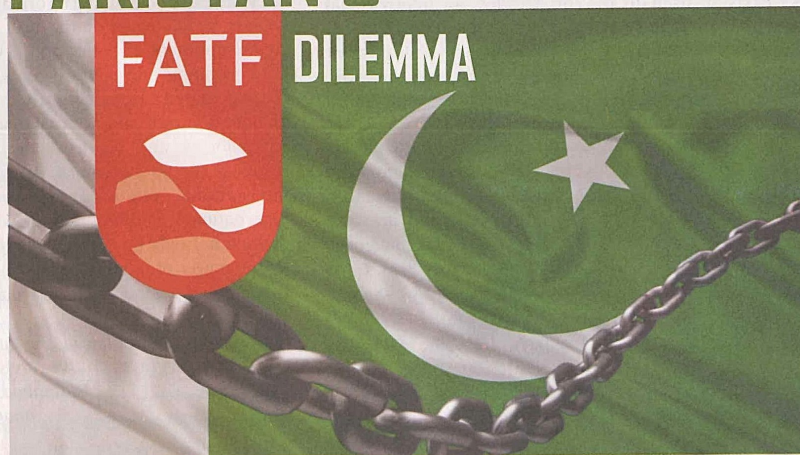
During the last few years, news related to Pakistan being placed in the FATF's Grey List has become a point of concern for many. There are numerous reasons for that but the most important one is concerning the people of Pakistan who will bear the brunt if the country is placed in the Black List, declaring it a high-risk country. Created in 1989 by the G-7 countries, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) became a world financial regulatory body meant to combat money laundering alone, but then its role was expanded to counter and stop terror financing (TF) after 9/11. FATF comprises 39 countries and two regional partners; one being the Asia Pacific Group (APG) of which Pakistan is also a member. Since the Soviet-Afghan war, Pakistan has been experiencing worst form of religious extremism, terrorism and various kinds of corruption, leading to money laundering (ML). Therefore, at different times, it was placed under heavy international economic sanctions that negatively affected its economic growth. In this way, Pakistan, being a member, had to follow the recommendations given by the FATF to make laws to counter money laundering and root out terror-financing in order to reduce damage done to society at large.



In its recent plenary, held virtually from 21st to 25th of June, FATF has decided to keep Pakistan in its grey list till it addressed the single remaining item on the original Action Plan agreed in June 2018 when the country was grey-listed. Though the FATF president, Dr Marcus Pleyer, praised Pakistan's role in making a significant progress by implementing 26 out of 27 items on the plan of action yet he maintained that item on financial terrorism still needed to be addressed that concerned the 'investigation and persecution of senior leaders and commanders of UN-designated terror groups'. Back in 2018, Pakistan was given 27 recommendations to chalk out a plan to bring policy reforms and develop mechanism to counter ML and TF as per the given guidelines. After coming into power, the PTI government faced serious problems related to economy, i.e. low foreign exchange reserves and decreased foreign direct investment (FDI). In order to reset the economy and bring it back on track, it went for the 12th IMF package. Similarly, it also took vigorous steps to get the work done given in the FATF's Action Plan in order to lessen the pressure on economy. Till October 2020, Pakistan could achieve

only 24 out of total 27 items through taking strong legislative efforts and amending at least 14 existing laws to comply with FATF's recommendations. Out of these, three bills that were passed are worth mentioning. Firstly, the Islamabad Capital Territory Waqaf Properties Bill was passed to control terrorism and religious extremism by ensuring proper management and supervision of Waqaf properties in territorial limits of Islamabad Capital Territory. Secondly, the Anti-Money Laundering Amendment Bill was passed that focused on streamlining existing anti-money laundering law in line with the international standards prescribed by FATF. Through this, all the financial institutions across the country were required to investigate thoroughly their account-holders' data to ensure transparency and avoid illegal and anonymous transactions. The third important bill was to address the issue of terror financing. It enabled LEAs to take action with the ultimate support of courts to curb terror financing. Pakistan in this way prosecuted around 30 UN, designated terrorists and their associates. Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) chief Hafiz Saeed and its operations commander Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi along with Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) chief Masood Azhar and others have received

PAKISTAN'S FATF DILEMMA



Imran Ali Bhayo

convictions or are facing charges of terror-financing. It can be recalled that assets of Hafiz Saeed were frozen and madrasahs run by them were also regulated. Thus, after all this, FATF in its meeting held in February this year, after its peer review report, stressed that Pakistan should address three strategically important deficiencies. It urged Pakistan to demonstrate that terror financing investigations be done properly, persons and entities acting on behalf of or on the direction of the designated persons must be targeted and ultimately prosecuted. Secondly, to demonstrate that terror financing prosecutions reach effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions. Lastly, to demonstrate that effective implementation and targeted financial sanctions against all designated persons have been brought to justice. Pakistan, in this way, took very effective measures and just in four months till the month of July achieved 2 goals. Despite substantial progress on the original action plan, Pakistan was still put on the grey list when the outcome of FATF plenary was published in previous month. To some, it was expected as the work on remaining item was not done and to others, it was a bolt from the blue. The former see it as an opportunity to intensify the implementation of action plan to prove to the international community that Pakistan is a responsible country and will not hesitate to bring reforms. They support their argument by quoting the figures given by State Bank of Pakistan that after the implementation of FATF plan of action, remittance rose to all-time high of 2.8 billion, 26% higher than a year ago. The latter, however, see it as a political manoeuvring done by rival countries especially India and America to malign Pakistan in the comity of nations. Therefore, it is not an entirely misplaced belief that FATF is used as a tool to put pressure on countries like Pakistan as there are examples where countries have been delisted even though they did less than what Pakistan did. Even European countries are notoriously famous for being the major hubs of illicit money. Statement by the foreign minister of Pakistan does carry some weight when he said, "It needed to be looked into whether FATF was being used for political purposes, some powers desire to keep the sword of FATF hanging over Pakistan." He further said that it is yet to be

determined whether FATF is either a technical or a political forum. Some political commentators also refer to the situation in Afghanistan as the determining factor in deciding about Pakistan's fate in FATF. Furthermore, the most devastating outcome of the July session for Pakistan was that it received another six-point plan of action that mainly deals with money laundering. The new plan of action that has been given by the Asia Pacific Group states that Pakistan has to enhance international cooperation and demonstrate that assistance is being sought from foreign countries in implementing United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions on money laundering and terror financing. Delisting will only occur after Pakistan completes both plans of action, i.e. addressing the single remaining item on the original action plan and six additional items added by APG. Commenting on what will happen next and how the remaining goals will be achieved, Hammad Azhar, federal minister for industries and production, said that in the original action plan, Pakistan was declared high-risk country in terror financing where Pakistan has done a lot and in next few months, one remaining item will also be completed. On the other hand, new plan of action, according to him, is less challenging and Pakistan was declared as a low-risk country and it too will be completed within a year. It is clear from the given facts that Pakistan in the next few years will manage to get out of the grey list and when it does so, the following positive implications are expected. Firstly, if Pakistan makes strong anti-money laundering and terror-financing laws and implements them on given time and prosecute the responsible, Pakistan's banking system along with its financial markets will get improved. It will boost investors' confidence to invest in Pakistan and ultimately beef up the government's narrative of fighting corruption. Pakistan's overall economy will get better as the people will start trusting the institutions. Thus, Pakistan can make better use of its diplomatic channels as well by getting support from like-minded countries in order to face the belligerent powers that are adamant to destabilize Pakistan. ■

The writer has an MPhil degree in Political Science and takes interest in history, politics and current affairs.

'More action needed'

RETAINED IN GREY LIST FOR

Failure to adequately investigate, prosecute UN-designated terror groups such as JeM and its chief Masood Azhar, and the Afghan Taliban

WHAT THIS MEANS

Pak may not be able to get more financial aid from international organisations such as IMF and World Bank until it is taken off the grey list

WHAT PAK NEEDS TO DO

- Complete the one pending item (taking steps against terrorists, terror outfits) out of the 27 listed in the old action plan
- Implement the new action plan that involves 6 items, including increase in money laundering probe and prosecutions

WHAT'S NEXT?

FATF may consider removing Pakistan off the list only after conducting two on-site inspections after both the action plans are completed

EXPERTS SAY: Completing the action plans could take at least one more year



Zafrullah Saroya

Large-scale migration from rural areas to bigger cities for better access to basic services and employment opportunities without proper urban planning has caused rapid urbanization while adversely affecting standard of living in mega cities of the country. In developed countries, cities are the engines of economic growth, innovations and entrepreneurship. But in Pakistan, the huge flow of migration due to multiple factors has turned the cities into hotbeds of discontent caused by overpopulation.

The final results of the Population Census 2017 have shown that Pakistan's urban population grew immensely by 76 percent to 75.68 million in 2017 from 43m in 1998. In other words, around 36.44pc of the country's total population of 207.68m lived in cities in 2017 compared to 32.5pc out of 132.35m in 1998. According to the data, Balochistan is the most rapidly urbanising province followed by Sindh, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Rapid urbanisation is placing more pressure on limited public services (education, health, clean drinking water, sewerage, and so on) which are available for city dwellers as socio-economic infrastructure in major cities crumbles owing to lack of sufficient investments.

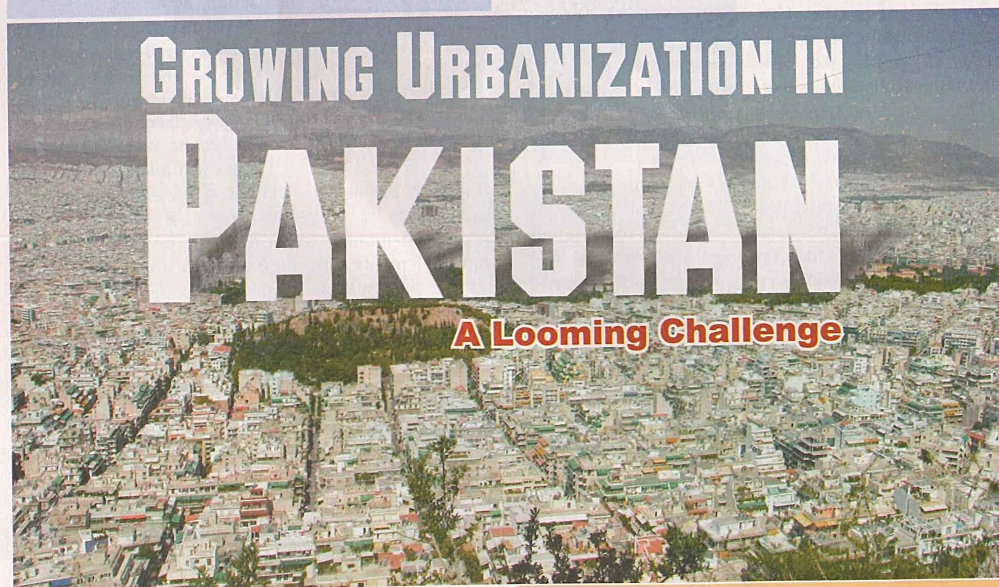
Do these figures depict the true situation?

Pakistan ranks among the world's most rapidly urbanising countries. Final census figures show that just under 76m people — or 36.44pc of the populace — lived in cities in 2017 compared to 43m who lived in urban areas back in 1998. However, according to various studies, urbanisation

data in Pakistan may not be entirely reliable. This is because the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics' definition of 'urban' tends to be based on cities' administrative limits, which leaves out 'urbanising' or 'peri-urban' areas that extend beyond the demarcated boundaries. Thus peri-urban areas may exhibit urban characteristics but are considered rural for the purposes of census data collection. This underrepresents the urbanised areas, leading many researchers to argue that nearly half the population could be classified as urban if the PBS definition of a city or urban area were to be interpreted more liberally.

Emerging challenges

While rapid urbanisation — driven mainly by a high birth rate and the migration of farm labour in search of better jobs and facilities — provides immense opportunities for boosting economic growth, poor urban planning and management is posing serious challenges. A few years ago, a World Bank study described Pakistan's urbanisation as messy and hidden, which is preventing the full tapping of potential and contribution to economic development. It is messy because it is inflating major cities at such a breakneck speed that the government is unable to deliver public services or create jobs. Although the breakdown of city infrastructure is more pronounced in Karachi than anywhere else in the country, other 'better-managed' cities in Punjab, including Lahore, are also feeling the strain of the enormous pressure on their limited public services brought on by rapid population growth. Thus, it is not surprising to see a dramatic growth in urban slums, the separation of residential areas on the basis of socio-



economic status, increase in poverty levels, ugly housing sprawls, deteriorating air quality, rising mobility problems for those — particularly women — who cannot afford their own transport, etc. More importantly, the city sprawls — or horizontal expansion of the urban areas — for the wealthy are eating into fertile agricultural land. The gap in the services available to residents of the poorer, disorganised neighbourhoods and affluent urban communities has not only increased, it has also exacerbated crime and other social issues.

Housing crisis

Dwindling household size, which has reduced to 5.55 persons in Sindh and 6.38 persons in Punjab against the national average of 6.39 persons, is also creating housing shortages as well as mobility issues in the cities. It goes without saying that agricultural land around cities is being grabbed by the wealthy to develop expensive sprawling housing societies for the affluent with all



amenities.

In fact, Pakistani cities present a striking contrast as disparities in the quality of life and circumstances of people living in different areas increase with the passage of time. The growing gap in the services available to residents of the poorer, disorganised neighbourhoods and the affluent communities is spawning crime and creating law and order issues.

Poor urban management

Urban management and not urbanisation is a challenge; urbanisation is an opportunity. Urbanisation is unstoppable. The massive urbanization has also made it a challenge for the policymakers to make planning for thickly populated urban centres. Therefore, if not all, the majority of urban areas are being faced with air and noise pollution, water, sanitation and transport issues due to lack of proper sewerage and waste disposal mechanism. If Pakistan is to progress, we will have to encourage

urbanisation. In order to exploit the full potential of cities for economic growth, we would have to address the attendant problems and reshape our cities on an urgent basis

How to resolve the issue?

The lack of sufficient public investment, the bulk of which is spent by governments to develop infrastructure and facilitate the mobility of car owners, is but one reason for our collapsing cities. Major factors pulling our cities apart are the absence of strong local governments, paraphernalia for effective urban management and planning, and public participation in the policymaking process, as well as the fragmentation of public services and responsibilities that hamper the execution of plans. Unless Pakistan's cities are reshaped to become a source of economic opportunity and democratisation, they will spawn greater social discontent and crime. The urbanization challenge seeks serious attention from policymakers to strike a

balance between industrial growth and the basic needs of the residents.

Similarly, the agriculture sector, which dominated the country's economy for decades, should also be focused on sustainable growth and food security. But over the years, the unplanned urbanization without sound public policies has posed a number of challenges by creating urban slums and environmental degradation. Therefore, urbanization seeks well-conceived policies for ensuring the provision of basic amenities of life to the growing population.

Conclusion

It is estimated that after 2025, more than half of the population in Pakistan would be living in cities. However, this challenge could be addressed with indigenous solutions of sustainable policies, effective implementation and evaluation by ensuring transparency, social justice, participation, efficiency and accountability.

The population of Pakistan keeps growing with each passing day. In 2020, about 4.45% of Pakistan's total population was unemployed. Each year, once done with university, the youth are normally released to the job market. This is what pushes for the need to create more job opportunities for the rising population. However, to make it possible, there is a need for reforms. This includes implementing some policies and strategies. I would like to discuss the seven-point agenda for creating 10 million jobs via digitalisation in Pakistan, that I have highlighted in the last CFO conference as well.

Seven-point agenda for creating 10 million jobs

Imran Batada

month, it will have a yearly impact of around \$1.2 billion. The fifth way is through embracing FinTech. A major problem affecting Pakistan's economy is taxation. The government is not able to widen the tax network and is mostly based on the informal economy. Financial inclusion or financial technology will help resolve the issue. In Pakistan, many banks are adopting FinTech to increase financial services. This has been beneficial through the use of online banking and digital payments. This has been made easy with the fact that over 73% of Pakistanis have access to cellular usage. Therefore, this approach can lead to the creation of jobs and the growth

of many FinTech start-ups.

The sixth way is through capacity-building. In an attempt to increase capacity building, the government launched the NAVTTC programme that provides regulation, coordination, and policy direction for vocational and technical training. It has the objective to train 50,000 individuals with marketable skills. The courses are free of cost and a great initiative of the government in youth empowerment.

The seventh way is through linking the academic and industry world. All degree programmes should make internships

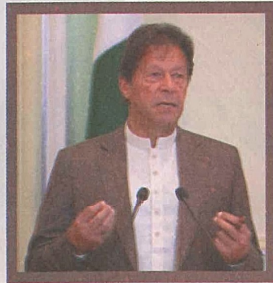
mandatory for students after finishing their university. It will help students to get jobs after their internship.

These strategies will help create more job opportunities for people living in Pakistan. If people fully embraced freelancing, remote working, industrial linkages, tech unicorns, FinTech, online stores, capacity building, and e-residency policy, more job opportunities will come up. However, the government should provide support to ensure its implementation for Pakistan's prosperity. This will help stimulate healthy economic growth. The boom in the creative industry will help provide more opportunities for the growing population in Pakistan. ■

Courtesy: Express Tribune

The first way is through the e-residency policy. It will allow companies working outside to establish their presence in Pakistan. They won't need to come to Pakistan physically, but we will need to provide a conducive environment for them. This is through the facilitation, registration and hiring of employees from Pakistan. E-residency will be open for all countries that will motivate them to establish themselves here. Second is through freelancing. Freelancers are digital nomads — they revolve around and make money from the IT digital skills they possess and are a major asset for us. In addition, Pakistan ranks fourth on the list of high-performing freelancers. The government can hire digital nomads to develop products related to database and application security products. These can be utilised by the local industry and exported too. This approach will help provide employment and increase our exports. Thirdly, an increase in tech unicorns will help create more jobs in Pakistan. For instance, Estonia is making \$1 billion yearly from these tech unicorns. Therefore, we can mobilise our youth. The growth of tech unicorns in Pakistan will not only impact the economy but also provide job opportunities. Investment in start-ups will provide better funding for youth-led start-ups and gradually reduce the unemployment rate.

The fourth way is through an entrepreneurial channel to expand the e-commerce market. Amazon is one of the best online marketplaces to buy and sell products. It helps to open the doors of millions of sellers to the global world. Diving into Amazon selling in Pakistan will help sellers and manufacturers sell in the international market. Pakistan is known for textile products, which previously were being sold by sellers from other regions. For instance, if 100,000 Pakistanis start making money through Amazon by earning a minimum of \$1,000 per



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In Conversation with
Muhammad Raza (PSP)
 9th in Pakistan;
 1st in Sindh;
 (Interview Topper)
 CSS 2020-21

"A person is known by the company he keeps, and for a person pursuing his/her CSS ambitions, it is hard to find a better company than at World Times Institute"

JWT Editorial Board

Jahangir's World Times (JWT): First of all, please tell us about your educational background.

Muhammad Raza (MR): My early education spanned over Garhi Khairo, Jacobabad and Karachi. My family moved to Karachi for my higher education, and I joined the Bachelors of Business Administration (BBA) program at the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi. I am a proud recipient of the Fulbright Award as well for graduate studies.

JWT: Since you have been allocated to Police Service of Pakistan (PSP), what was the feature of this service that attracted you most?

MR: While each occupational group allows incredible room to serve, PSP attracted me personally due to its positioning as the first line of defence in the criminal justice system. The uniformed service allows one to extend immediate relief to the public and plays a bold role in the line of duty.

JWT: How was your experience of preparing for CSS at World Times Institute?

MR: A person is known by the company he keeps, and for a person pursuing his/her CSS ambitions, it is hard to find a better company than at World Times Institute. The institute provides rich resources and experts which accompany you in your journey from written exams till the interviews stage. I have been educated, encouraged and, most importantly, challenged during my time at WTI. I am grateful for the endless efforts of our experienced instructors, dedicated administrators, and my very capable fellows.

JWT: What, in your opinion, is the key to making a difference in written part of CSS exam?

MR: To know how to make a difference in

written part of CSS exam, one must understand the needs of the audience – the examiner. Even prior to embarking on the preparation of my optional subjects, I skimmed through the Examiner Reports published on FPSC website. Though often overlooked, this report provides a subject-wise insight into what the examiners seek.

If I had to list down 5 characteristics, they would be: (i) Clarity in written expression, (ii) supplementing evidence and data, (iii) critical thinking, (iv) understanding the question requirements and (v) use of graphics or diagrams.

A convenient way of familiarizing yourself with most of these characteristics is through reading and listening. The awareness derived from reading quality literature and from credible news sources, and listening to reliable podcasts helps one develop similar traits, which sets one apart in written part of the CSS exam.

JWT: What was the key to your phenomenal success?

MR: After the divine help and prayers of my parents, I credit my success to perseverance on my part. Despite two attempts full of dedication, I had to be unhindered by the despair of failure and deaf to many de-motivating talks of people around me. To me, perseverance entailed a discipline in effort, adopting a lifestyle that contributed to my preparation and everything in between.

JWT: Generally, compulsory subjects are considered low-scoring, what was your strategy to get through these very papers?

MR: I find this a myth – some of the compulsory subjects like General Science & Ability and Islamic Studies generally yield better scores. In the results of the CE 2019 in particular, people earned as high as 80 marks in Précis and Composition. Therefore, if you

Detailed Marks Sheet

Subject	Marks
Compulsory Subjects	
Essay	40
Précis & Composition	63
GSA	64
Current Affairs	50
Pakistan Affairs	49
Islamic Studies	45
Optional Subjects	
Accountancy & Auditing	148
Business Administration	65
Gender Studies	50
Criminology	49
History of USA	55
Total Written	678
Viva Voce	230
Grand Total	908

My Interview Experience

Interview is a different ballgame altogether, and should be tackled differently from the written exams. It is a holistic assessment of the candidate's overall persona. Each of the components, i.e. psychological evaluation, group activities and viva voce should be given due importance and preparation. My interview experience was quite smooth with a favourable environment constructed by the honourable panellists. There was a general discussion on my background, achievements, interests, and my experience at the State Bank of Pakistan. Several questions were also asked from the domains of World History, optional subjects, Pakistan Affairs and the evolving global scenario. Analysis is the key to acing the interview, as the panellists are more interested in your personal opinions and your thought process rather than plain bookish knowledge. It was indeed a memorable experience that one tends not to forget.

are on the right track, you can certainly capitalize on these subjects too. Don't let such rumoured trends lower your aim.

JWT: How answers should be written to get maximum marks?

MR: I can share a few keywords that you must remember as you raise your pen to write the answers: Headings, examples, quotations, references, facts and visuals. If your game is strong around these, you need not worry.

JWT: Should there be some word limit kept in mind while writing answers?

MR: I am not a believer of "a single formula works for all." The answer must cater to all parts of the question, and more importantly, it should do justice to it in terms of detailing. It generally requires one to answer in about 6 pages for a question, excluding any space used for graphics/illustrations.

JWT: How did you structure your Essay and what was your strategy for Précis and Composition Paper?

MR: As I practiced my Essay – twice a week – I realized that it is important to know one's limitations before one begins writing the first word. Over time, I grew aware of the duration it takes me to select a topic, give an outline, write the essay, and, finally, proofread the same. This provided me with composure in the examination hall. I structured my essay to have an appropriate introduction that demonstrated an understanding of the topic. The introduction was composed to hint at the significance of the subject, by mentioning the crucial implications of it. The introduction also laid out vividly the stand of the writer, as the thesis statement. Thereafter, the essay was designed to have various branches. Each branch was preceded with a short line to aid the examiner. The branches were then further divided into various paragraphs – each one embodying a separate argument. An essential characteristic to make the reading possible without zoning out was the use of particular and coherent connectors.

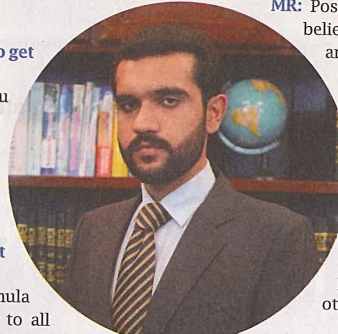
Finally, the conclusion was made to wrap up the arguments, restate my stance, and reaffirm the importance of the topic. This needs to be commensurate to the introduction.

Précis and Composition paper seems the most manageable. The structure remains constant for the most part, and this makes it easier to prepare for. I believe that if you are well versed with the writing of a good newspaper, the exam seems less daunting. I tried to familiarize myself with about 2,500 words from various GRE/GMAT lists. I also made a habit of looking up meanings, synonyms, antonyms of every alien word I came across the news, or any other reading.

Another way I practiced was to write précis for newspaper editorials, and to guess the topics by just reading the editorial.

JWT: How a new aspirant should start his/her preparations?

MR: Post the critical stage of subject selection, I believe one of the key starting points should be an analysis of the past papers. This helps pen down the expectations of the examiner.

With this objective in mind, the syllabus should be studied word by word while making a note in mind of the portions that are usually examined. Such topics should be set as a priority. The priority should, then, be translated into a well-defined timeline that should not be too stringent so as to avoid the highly probable burnout an aspirant may otherwise fall victim to. No pressure. 

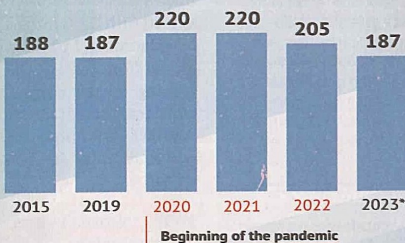
Rapid Fire

Your inspiration	An innate desire to serve the bottom of the pyramid
Attempts	03
Qualification	BBA
Alma mater	IBA, Karachi
Schooling medium	English
Your study schedule	04 hours a day
Your sources	The Economist, CFR, Brookings Institute, SBP reports, JWT magazine
Group preferences	1. PSP 2. PAS
Academy or Institute you joined	World Times Institute
Why PSP?	It provides a unique blend of professional excellence as well as public service
Hobbies	Martial arts, public speaking and swimming
Fave personality	Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah
Fave book	Man's Search for Meaning by Viktor Frankl
Fave quote	"Ask not what your country can do for you ask what you can do for your country— John F. Kennedy
Secret of your success	Passion backed by action
Your role model(s)	Tariq Jawaid (My Father)

Rising Unemployment Amid the Pandemic

The economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic is expected to contribute to global unemployment; more than 200 million people are expected to be out of work next year, with women and younger working-age people worst-hit

Global unemployment, millions

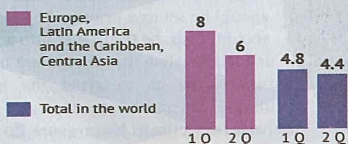


According to ILO data

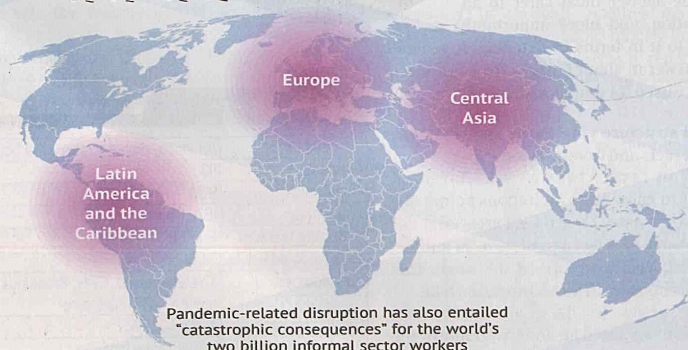
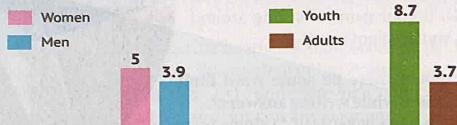
*Recovery from pandemic-linked job losses won't arrive until 2023

The worst-affected regions in the first half of 2021

Working-hour losses in 2021, %



Falling employment rate in 2020, %



Pandemic-related disruption has also entailed "catastrophic consequences" for the world's two billion informal sector workers

Reasons for the unemployment rise



Unequal vaccine access



Weak labour market recovery



Exacerbating existing inequalities between countries and regions



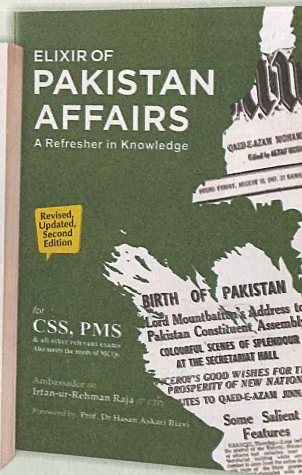
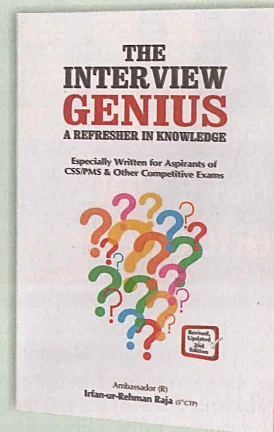
Under-utilisation of the labour force and poor working conditions



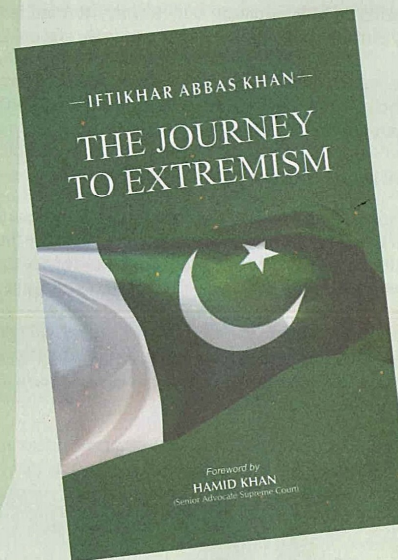
Lack of social protection in developing countries

The limited capacity of most developing and emerging economies to support the strong fiscal stimulus measures that have characterised the approach of the world's wealthiest countries

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- Religious Parties & Pakistan Movement
- Bhutto's Islamisation in The Aftermath of Debacle of East Pakistan
- Sectarianism and Militancy
- Gen. Musharraf Regime
- Afghan Crisis and Its Implications for Pakistan
- External Forces and Domestic Policies
- Dark Days of Judiciary
- Problems for Pakistan Due to The Taliban Regime
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- Fall out of Attackson Pathankot & Bacha Khan University
- Madrasa Education and The State

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HABITS

that make you
unproductive

Has it ever happened that you think you have been working too hard and too long for something, but were not able to accomplish as much as you wanted, or do as well as you wanted to? This is a very common situation that most of us find ourselves in frequently. If you have a problem of low productivity, despite best efforts, then there are chances that you are doing something that is hampering or killing your productivity. You, surely, have some unproductive habits or traits that are not letting you reach your full potential.

WE

all know what good habits and bad habits are, and we try to avoid the bad ones. But do we know what unproductive habits are, which make our efforts and time go to waste? In this piece, let's look at some unproductive habits and see how they hamper growth.

1. Worrying more than you should

We worry when we have a lot to do and we worry when there is nothing to do. What if I lose my job? What if I lose my sight? What if I fail to complete the task? These thoughts keep hitting our minds, especially since the Covid-19 pandemic hit us a year ago and our lives changed in so many ways. To worry is human nature but to worry too much is hazardous. By over-worrying, you are only putting yourself under stress and this eventually affects your growth and productivity.

Although some worrying is good because it makes you more cautious and you make preparations well in advance. However, worrying about things that are not in your control, or the ones that have not even happened, only stifles your productivity.

So, stop worrying about things beyond your control, which don't affect you directly or which have not taken place yet. Let things take their course and then see what happens.

2. Trying too hard

Working too hard or pushing yourself too much can also harm your productivity. In a marathon, the participants do not use up all their energy at once in the start of the race because they know that soon they will be exhausted and left behind in the race. They take a steady pace that they can maintain, and when the finish line is within sight, they push themselves and give it their all and are able to beat those who have exhausted themselves by now.

Life is also like a race, if you work too hard for too long, you will soon lose steam and your productivity will fall. Maintain a good steady pace that you can keep for long and give that extra hour to your work or studies when needed. Do take breaks to relax and recharge yourself, it will put you in a better position to achieve what you are doing.

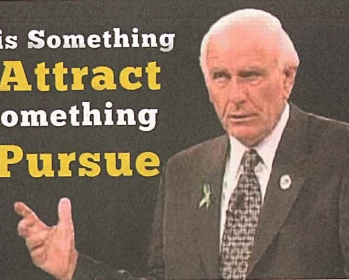
3. Not writing things down

Our brain is a wonderful organ that is working all the time. It gives us many amazing ideas and there are very interesting thoughts running around in our brain. What most of us do is that we don't note down the useful ideas that come to mind, relying on our brain to store it for us as memory. But later on, when it is time to use that idea or work on it, we can't recall it. Many great ideas are lost this way.

It is a good practice to keep a small notebook somewhere you can reach easily, and note down in it the things you have to do and want to do, ideas, messages, memories, etc. And even if you are not in immediate need of what you are writing down, later on when you are going through a phase when you don't have new ideas, these old notes may give you inspiration for new things

Magazine Desk

Success is Something
You Attract
Not Something
You Pursue



to aim for, or remind you of important ones that you sidelined for something else.

4. Checking things

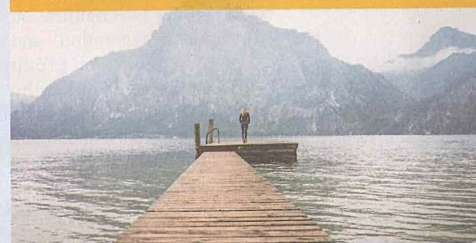
While technology has made so many tasks so easy, it has also made it easy for us to be unproductive while still being busy. One of the most unproductive traits and habits that everyone of us seems to have these days is that of constantly 'checking' things; our messages, social media accounts, emails, updates, news and what not. Of course, we had to mention the device that manages your colour-coded calendar and doubles as an alarm clock that wakes you up. With the benefits of using your phone comes the downfall of always instinctively checking it.

Come on, the world will not come to an end if you don't read a message the moment it pops up, or someone's status the minute it is posted. It will remain there till the end of the day, till tomorrow and till eternity. Don't worry about it and never waste your time on it.

Granted that some messages are important, you can open and read them. But while doing that, you don't have to open all the other messages that have been received, because you know most of them are silly forwarded messages that you are likely to get from so many other sources too. And there

SUCCESS IS NOT SOMETHING YOU PURSUE. SUCCESS IS
SOMETHING YOU ATTRACT BY BECOMING AN ATTRACTIVE PERSON.

— JIM ROHN —



is really noting worth responding in them.

5. Not having rules

There is a time in life, or maybe too many times in life, when to question every rule we are faced with. Breaking rules and not following rules gives a sense of freedom to some people; it makes them feel liberated, which is fine. But when this leads to always going against the rules, people become unproductive and unreasonable, causing problems for themselves and others.

Rules are made to give structure, routine and discipline to things and institutions, even nations. Rules are made with a lot of thought. Without rules, life would be chaotic. There would be no accountability and no results.

Those who keep asking, 'Why should I do this?' or 'Why should I listen to that person?' are wasting too much of their energy and time in questioning and thinking of ways to break or bend the rules. If they focused that much energy and time on working with the rules, they would be far more successful and productive.

6. Not saying 'no'

This may seem the opposite of following rules, but saying 'no' when needed is something different. When you don't say 'no' to others, you waste a lot of time in pleasing them. When you do a thing half-heartedly, it is not done well, so it is better to tell someone that you cannot, or do not want to, do something rather than commit to it. You can't do everything or please everyone. And when you are in such a position, you should clearly, but politely, say 'no' to the other person.

In all, do not put yourself in a position you don't want to be in, or do something that you don't want to do, because it will not be very fruitful. Only commit to things you are comfortable with and are sure to ace in that.

7. Comparing yourself to others

How much time have you spent wondering why your co-worker got a promotion over you or why your old classmate seems to have their life more together than your friends? Probably more than you'd like to admit. There is no benefit of comparing yourself to others. There is not a set timeline of when you should be celebrating big life events, like promotions, marriage, or having children. Any time you spend deep diving into Instagram profiles and wondering why someone else has what you want is time wasted. Focus on what you can control to get where you want to go and take breaks from social media. You won't be missing anything.

8. Prioritizing work over health

If you're neglecting your health, you're not bringing your best self to work. When you don't feel your best, you won't perform as well, and, therefore, your work will be hindered. This should be apparent, but we've all been guilty of staying up late to finish projects or skipping the gym for a meeting. Sleep well, exercise and fuel your body with nutrient-rich food. Make your physical, emotional and mental health a priority. That includes sleep because working tired is the worst. ☐

Engr. Sarfraz Nawaz

Recently, the top US military official, General Mark Milley, defended the necessity of studying even controversial parts of history, saying accusations by Republican lawmakers that the armed forces are teaching recruits a controversial theory about racism were offensive. At the core of the argument, which has mostly taken place on social media, is a legal framework called critical race theory. The term refers to a school of thought that first appeared in American legal scholarship in the 1970s, as a way to analyse racism as part of a system with laws and power structures, rather than at the level of individual prejudice. In recent months, Republican lawmakers have introduced several bills at the state and federal levels to curb its teaching in public schools. Among Americans who think they have a good idea of what CRT is, a majority think unfavourably of it. What is critical race theory, and why has it become a battleground of America's culture wars?

The school of thought first emerged in universities in the 1970s from a perception that the advances of the civil-rights era had stalled. A group of black legal theorists, including Derrick Bell, Kimberlé Crenshaw and Patricia Williams, found academia's understanding of race in America wanting. They shared a view that racism is pervasive. It is not principally a matter of

CRITICAL RACE THEORY

personal belief; instead, they argued, it is structurally embedded in American institutions. Any honest effort to eradicate racism has to involve changing how institutions function. Simply ending segregation and outlawing overtly racist policies is not enough. CRT has since spread from legal theory to influence all sorts of academic disciplines. It is not a fixed set of ideas. Instead, it seeks to examine how race and racism function in society. Though there are significant differences between scholars who claim the mantle, some common themes emerge. One thesis, common outside CRT circles, is that concepts of "race" are not grounded in science but rather

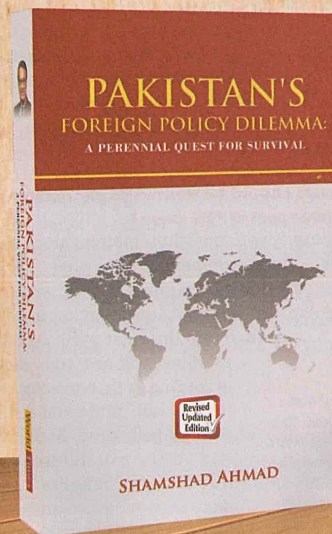
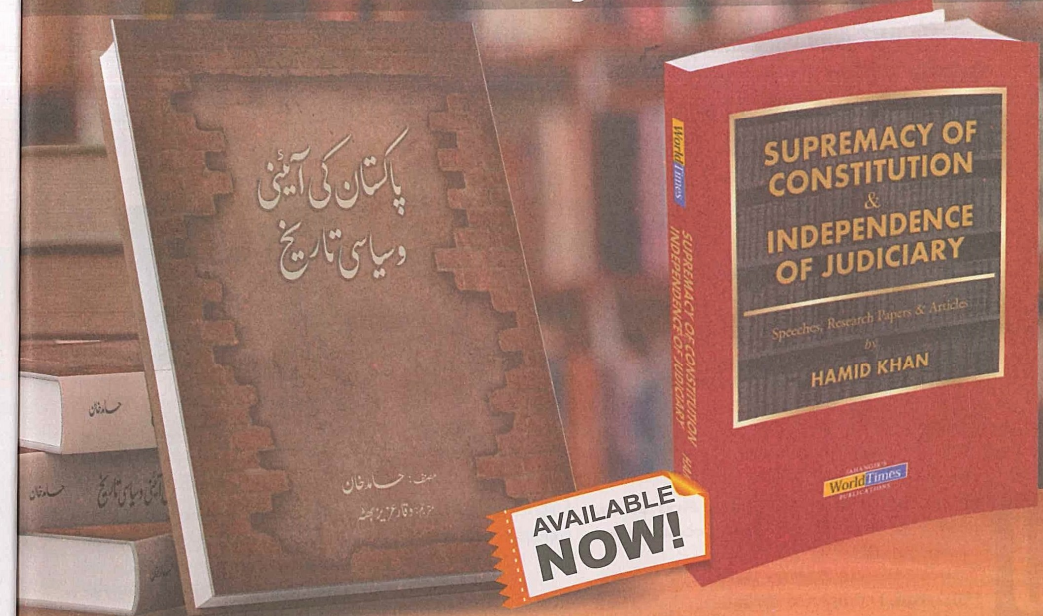
defined (often cynically) by people. Another, championed by Mr Bell, is that steps toward racial equality are made only when they coincide with the interests of those in power, usually whites. Ms Crenshaw introduced the notion of "intersectionality", which observes that people are members of multiple, intersecting groups and argues that viewing them as a member of only one risks ignoring important differences between people (for instance, black women experience discrimination differently than white women). But even these positions are up for debate among CRT theorists.

That fluidity, combined with the fact that CRT is not a movement with a specific platform but an approach to examining society, makes misrepresentation and caricature easy. The popularity of polemical bestsellers influenced by CRT, such as Robin DiAngelo's "White Fragility", and the debates on social media that they have spawned, raised CRT's profile and made it a target.

Some politicians and activists mistake CRT's claim that American institutions benefit white people at the expense of others as meaning that white people are intrinsically racist. Ted Cruz, a Republican senator from Texas, decried the theory as being "every bit as racist as the Klansmen in white sheets." In the past seven months, Fox News, a right-wing cable-news network, mentioned CRT more than two and a half times as often as CNN and MSNBC, two more liberal rivals, combined.

Critical race theorists can be prone to simplification and exaggeration, and CRT's focus on group dynamics overlooks the still-crucial role of individual behaviour. Yet it is hard to imagine how a modestly popular academic view could destroy a country's fabric. In fact, the instinct to ban the teaching of views thought objectionable may be the greater threat. ■

Latest Books by Hamid Khan



PAKISTAN'S FOREIGN POLICY DILEMMA: A PERENNIAL QUEST FOR SURVIVAL

Shamshad Ahmad's book stands out as a thorough and stimulating study of Pakistan's foreign policy that combines a diplomat's experience with academic discourse. It is not a chronology of major developments in Pakistan's interaction with the rest of the world.

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"Pakistan's Foreign Policy Dilemma: A Perennial Quest for Survival" offers a comprehensive overview drawing upon the author's vast experience and insights acquired as a distinguished and well-respected Pakistani diplomat.

Riaz Mohammad Khan
Former Foreign Secretary

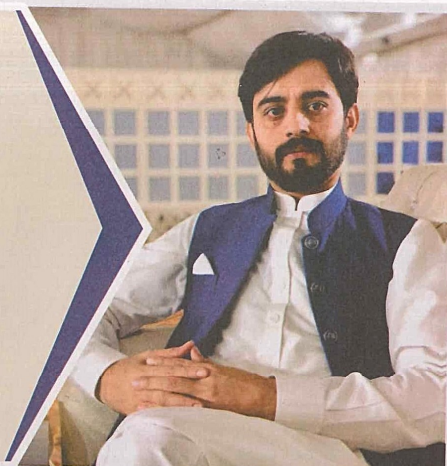
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“JWT was very much helpful during my preparation for PMS exam, and now it helps me to stay connected with the global and domestic current affairs”

In Conversation with Waheed Hassan Gondal

50th in Punjab, PMS 2019-20



JWT Edit. Board

short notes for every subject which helped me during exams. Another important thing is writing practice. You can take mock exams or practice on your own. Just set your timer for 25 minutes and take any question from the past papers and write its answer within that time. This will help you immensely to manage exam pressure, and you can also improve your paper presentation with this practice.

As for the General Knowledge paper, it requires a different approach. Divide the GK syllabus into different portions and prepare from different books and sources. I used to devote daily time to the General Knowledge portion. JWT magazine has a GK corner in it, I memorised that. Also, be very mindful of negative marking while you are attempting the paper.

JWT: How answers should be written to get maximum marks in the written part of PMS exam?

WHG: How you answer your questions matters more than how you think. The examiner knows about your knowledge on the topic from only what you write on the answer sheet. A question is usually divided into different parts and the examiner will give you marks according to that division. So, first of all, understand the portion technique. Secondly, add different references, quotations, charts and diagrams to your answers. Use blue or black markers to highlight important points. Add more and more relevant headings and bullet points. If you

Advice for Fresh Aspirants

You need four things to pass this exam: Motivation, hard work, patience, and consistency. If you are starting with these four things, you will succeed in your journey. There will be days when you would feel de-motivated and would want to quit but remember that this exam is not just any other academic exam, it tests your emotional and mental stability and your skills as well. Moreover, make monthly, weekly and daily goals. Your timetable should be flexible and you should have any small fun activity to keep yourself mentally healthy.

Jahangir's World Times (JWT): First of all, please tell us about your educational background?

Waheed Hassan Gondal (WHG): I hail from Hafizabad. I completed my intermediate from my hometown. Later on, I went to Lahore and did LLB from Punjab University. Then, I got admission to Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, and earned a Master's degree in International Relations from there.

JWT: How much helpful did you find Jahangir's World Times (JWT) in your preparation for PMS exam?

WHG: I read JWT magazine every month. It was very much helpful during my preparation for PMS exam, and now it helps me to stay connected with the global and domestic current affairs. One thing that I like about the JWT magazine is the writing style; if you read it regularly, you can improve your writing which is very important for a PMS aspirant. This will eventually help you with the Essay and every other exam.

JWT: What, in your opinion, is the key to getting through compulsory papers of PMS exam, especially that of General Knowledge?

WHG: I used to read two books for each compulsory subject; one book from the recommended books while the other was a good reference book. Note-making is very important. I made

have some time left, add critical analysis before the conclusion.

JWT: How did you structure your Essay?

WHG: My essay was pretty simple; I used simple English and clear sentences. First of all, my thesis statement was very precise and to the point. Then, I had a two-page-long outline with clear points which supported my thesis statement. One thing that I focused on while writing the essay was connecting every argument to the topic. You have a narrow line as it is easy to get distracted with irrelevant information and arguments. So, write clear and relevant arguments.

JWT: Should there be some word limit kept in mind while writing answers?

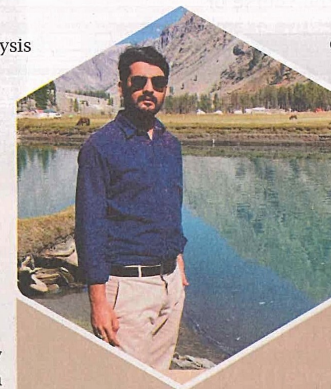
WHG: No, in my opinion, there should not be any word limit for writing the answers. You have got 25-30 minutes for each question; therefore, you need to put relevant material within that time. Quality is more important than quantity but one should also not write very concise answers. Write comprehensive answers, but without irrelevant filler content just to increase word count.

JWT: Is it better to attempt optional papers in Urdu or one should go with English only?

WHG: The logical answer would be that one should go with the one in which one feels more comfortable. But, in reality, most candidates, even those with Urdu-medium educational background, go with the English option. The reason behind this is that we don't have good books on these subjects written in Urdu. English books are easily available and you end up getting good marks if you use English as the medium.

JWT: How one should choose Optional Subjects?

WHG: First of all, forget the scoring trends; when you are choosing an optional subject, read its complete syllabus outline. If you find it interesting and you think you understand and can prepare better for it, go for that. Also, there are subjects related to your



My Interview Experience

My interview started with my introduction. The panel was very cooperative and friendly. The panelists started asking questions from my optional subjects, especially Punjabi. I was asked to tell the names of a couple of poets and recite some verses of Punjabi poetry. Then, there were questions from current affairs whereby questions about the latest happenings were asked. We had a good discussion about international relations and economy. I was also asked about the Syrian War and Kurds. I was asked many token questions as well – I missed some of them. Overall, my experience was wonderful and I had a great time with the panel.

educational background; you can pick those as well. In my case, I didn't opt for any subject from my educational background because I found the other three more interesting and that's the reason why I was able to tackle well the questions related to these subjects during my interview.

JWT: Who deserves the credit for your success?

WHG: First of all, it's a blessing of Allah Almighty. My success would never have been possible without His blessings. Secondly, the credit goes to my family; especially, my father who always kept me motivated, humble and focused. He passed away one month before my written exam and couldn't see my success. But it was the strength that he gave me that kept me going on with this journey – and many ahead of me.

JWT: As interviewers usually grill the interview candidates, how did you manage the situation?

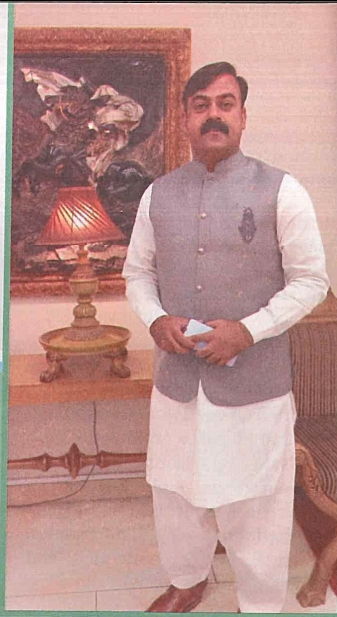
WHG: My interview experience was very pleasant. No doubt, the interviewers test your stress-management skills during those 30-40 minutes and some might call it grilling. But you need to be calm. If you don't know the answer to any question asked by the panelists, just smile confidently and apologise respectfully. Don't panic over the missing questions. It is important that you do not lose your confidence. ■

Rapid Fire

Your inspiration	My father Zafar Hussain Gondal
Attempts	02
Schooling medium	Both English and Urdu
Your qualification	LLB, MSc (International Relations)
Alma mater	QAU, Islamabad
Your study schedule	5-6 hours a day
Your sources	Recommended books, IPRI, The Economist, JWT and Dawn
Your hobbies	Gardening, playing tennis, travelling
Your strength	Stress-management skills
Fave personality	Elon Musk
Fave book	Fallen Leaves by Will Durant
Fave quote	"You show your worth by what you seek." —Rumi
Secret of your success	Persistence
Your role model	Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him)

“Throughout the course of my journey of competitive examinations, I found JWT very useful as it is prepared by experts who know what aspirants need to study to get through the exams”

In Conversation with Imran Rafique 14th in Punjab, PMS (Ministerial Quota) 2019-20



Jahangir's World Times (JWT): First of all, please tell us about your educational background?

Imran Rafique (IR): I hail from District Layyah. I studied at Govt. College Layyah and after completing intermediate, I started my professional career in Punjab Police as constable in 2002. I continued my studies along with doing the job and completed my Bachelors, Master's in History and Political Science, LLB, MPhil in History from the Islamia University of Bahawalpur, and, most recently, I completed my PhD in South Asian Studies from University of the Punjab, Lahore.

JWT: How often PMS (Ministerial Quota) seats are announced?

IR: These seats are five percent of the total PMS seats for the candidates serving under Punjab government from grade 01 to grade 16 having more than five years' experience. Unlike regular PMS, these are not announced every year; last time there was only 01 seat announced in the year 2016.

JWT: What is your total job experience and how did you manage your studies while simultaneously doing a job?

IR: I have served for 18 years in Punjab Highway Patrol (PHP) & Punjab Police. I started my career as constable in Punjab Police and left as ASI in Punjab Highway Patrol (PHP). No doubt, it was very difficult to continue my studies with challenging professional responsibilities in police but I kept my commitment alive and finally achieved my dream.

JWT: How many times did you take CSS & PMS examinations and what was the output of your attempts?

IR: I availed myself all the chances of CSS and PMS exams. Furthermore, it was my second attempt against PMS (Ministerial

Quot

a). Although I qualified PMS twice, that is, in 2013 and 2014, and also PMS (Ministerial Quota) once in 2016, I could not get allocated. However, finally I have made it in 2019 attempt.

JWT: How much helpful did you find Jahangir's World Times (JWT) in your preparation for PMS exam?

IR: It took me about 10 years to fulfil my dream of being a civil servant. Throughout the course of my journey of competitive examinations, I found JWT very useful as it is prepared by experts who know what aspirants need to study to get through the exams. Composition of JWT covers all areas in accordance with exam requirements and the recent trends.

JWT: What, in your opinion, is the key to getting through compulsory papers of PMS exam, especially that of General Knowledge?

IR: For compulsory subjects, conceptual understanding is necessary, first of all. Consulting authentic sources and writing practice of subjective part before final examination does matter a lot.

For General Knowledge, do not rely on single source rather keep yourself updated on current affairs, latest political developments, advancement in science and technology and also the tidbits from newspapers. Google is also very useful in finding and verifying various GK questions.

JWT: How answers should be written to get maximum marks in the written part of PMS exam?

IR: Relevance is the key to success in this regard. Writing too much is a futile

Detailed Marks Sheet

Subject	Marks
English Essay	10
Urdu Essay	12
General Ability	60
Total Written	82
Viva Voce	121
Grand Total	203

INTERVIEW

Advice for Fresh Aspirants

There is no shortcut to success. Always do extensive studies and writing practice. Take mock exams and finally get your work evaluated from subject specialists. Last but not least, prayers matter much in your success.

exercise. As far as my experience is concerned, aspirants should be brief and precise to score maximum in the written part. Critical thinking to analyse things with logical arguments is also a lead for an excellent score.

JWT: How did you structure your Essay?

IR: I have unique thing about essay to share with aspirants as I passed the Essay paper of competitive exams for eight times. I divide essay into two parts: contents and structure. Within the structure, outline, thesis statement, introduction, main body and conclusion are things to be prepared exclusively, while in contents, one needs to be updated on all the social issues and currents affairs in both national and international arena. Furthermore, I adopted a summary-oriented method in introductory and concluding paragraphs so as to catch the attention of the examiner. Analytical approach in essay writing to prove your argument with logical reasoning, especially in body paragraphs, is the key to success.

JWT: What was your strategy for the General Knowledge paper?

IR: I appeared in several one-paper (MCQs) exams conducted by PPSC and FPSC and found it a bit difficult as compared to subjective papers. I consulted several sources to prepare for this paper. Conceptual clarity and subjective preparation of different areas before objective part is recommended for new aspirants.

JWT: Should there be some word limit kept in mind while writing answers?

IR: Word limit is specified in English Essay only, but, in short, quality matters more than quantity. Time management is very critical thing to keep in mind while answering the questions.

JWT: Is it better to attempt optional papers in Urdu or one should go with English only?

IR: English medium is better to opt for in optional subjects as all valuable sources of study are available in English.

JWT: How one should choose Optional Subjects?

IR: One should choose optional subjects according to one's personal interest. Trend matters but personal liking or disliking of any subject matters more than that.

JWT: Who deserves the credit for your success?

IR: Credit goes to my father for his relentless prayers and to my teachers, especially Sir Zafar Abbas Chandio, who motivated me to become what I am today - a civil servant.

JWT: As interviewers usually grill the interview candidates, how did you manage the situation?

IR: Self-confidence is the key to success in interview. In my opinion, interview is a personality test and one should be well prepared prior to going before the interview panel. During the interview, first listen to the interviewer carefully and then answer accordingly. Try to cover the answer from every aspect but never give a wrong answer. If one doesn't know the answer to any question, one can excuse politely. My interview was totally subject-based, a bit tricky and confusing one but I went through it as it was my fourth interview for PMS only. ■

Rapid Fire

Your inspiration	Sir Zafar Abbas Chandio (DD-ACE)
Attempts	02
Previous examinations	03 CSS, 03 PMS
Schooling medium	Urdu
Your qualification	PhD (South Asian Studies)
Alma mater	PU, Lahore
Your study schedule	6-8 hours a day
Your sources	Recommended books & national newspapers
Your hobbies	Watching & playing football, reading books, listening to music
Your strength	Commitment & Consistency
Fave personality	Hazrat Ali (RA)
Fave book	Post-American World and the Rise of the Rest by Fareed Zakaria
Fave quote	"With faith, discipline and selfless devotion to duty, there is nothing worthwhile that you cannot achieve." — Muhammad Ali Jinnah
Secret of your success	Prayers of my father, hard work & perseverance
Your role model	Muhammad Rafique (My Father)

My Interview Experience

My interview experience this time was totally different from that in all the previous interviews for PMS. Mr Chairman asked me to introduce myself and then worthy panelists grilled me on my subject of History. Finally, there started a debate on Geography and over my job experience. In response to some questions, I did say sorry but while doing so I maintained my confidence. I was not expecting much keeping in view the previous experiences of my PMS interviews, but Allah Almighty finally blessed me with success.





Antalya Diplomacy Forum

On June 18-20, the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized the Antalya Diplomacy Forum (ADF) with an aim to seek diplomatic way-outs for the stagnation humanity is facing all around the world. Held with the theme 'Innovative Diplomacy: New Era, New Approaches', the forum was attended by a total of 11 heads of state and government, 45 foreign ministers, besides a large attendance at ministerial level. Additionally, the event was attended by about 60 representatives of international organizations and high-level personalities, many Turkish and foreign guests from the business and academic world, and 256 young people in total, including undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students from more than 50 universities. Two leaders' sessions, 15 panels, 25 side events, including ADF Talks, and two youth forums were organized.

Khalid Khurshid

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi represented Pakistan at the recently-held Antalya Diplomacy Forum.

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, who delivered the ADF's opening address on June 18, stressed the importance of diplomacy in addressing global problems and warned that "you cannot shake hands with a clenched fist." He highlighted the lack of solidarity among governments around the world, and their shortcomings, in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

On June 19, Pakistan's foreign minister, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, participated in a high-level panel discussion on 'Regional Cooperation in Asia' along with the foreign ministers of Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. He highlighted the challenges being faced by Asia in form of unresolved disputes, tensions induced from within and without, renewed arms race, containment policies, poverty, Covid-19 and climate change.

The foreign minister called for a renewed focus by Asian countries on geo-economics and underlined the three pillars of Pakistan's policy: regional connectivity, development partnerships, and peace and prosperity. Highlighting the potential of Asia in the 21st century, FM Qureshi drew attention to the possibilities of cooperation that existed on the continent. He emphasized that connectivity and greater regional integration in the form of trade and investment would pave the way for a successful Asian century. He urged Asian countries to renew focus on geo-economics and underlined the need for promotion of a rules-based global order.

In this context, he noted that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), as a flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative, offered great opportunities for the countries of the region. He stressed the need for promotion of a rules-based global order. In his remarks, he also laid out five

steps to promote greater regional cooperation in Asia:

1. Focus on sustainable development;
2. Focus on poverty alleviation;
3. Engagement with the international community and international financial institutions for debt relief for developing countries in Asia in order to provide them with fiscal space to deal with the challenges;
4. Arresting illicit financial flows out of Asia gained from proceeds of crime and corruption;
5. Tackling climate change.

the foreign ministers on the panel called for increased multilateralism to deal with the challenges faced by Asia and agreed on the need for a renewed focus on transit and connectivity projects in the region.

Moreover, he met various leaders on sidelines of the Forum. In his meeting with the EU High Representative/Vice President Josep Borrell, FM Qureshi reiterated Pakistan's firm commitment towards the GSP Plus preferential trade regime and effective implementation of the 27 related international conventions. He highlighted that the GSP Plus had been a mutually beneficial undertaking, and played an important role in the growth of trade between the two sides. He briefed Borrell on Pakistan's vital contributions to the Afghan peace process, and stressed that the conflict could only be settled through an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned political process.

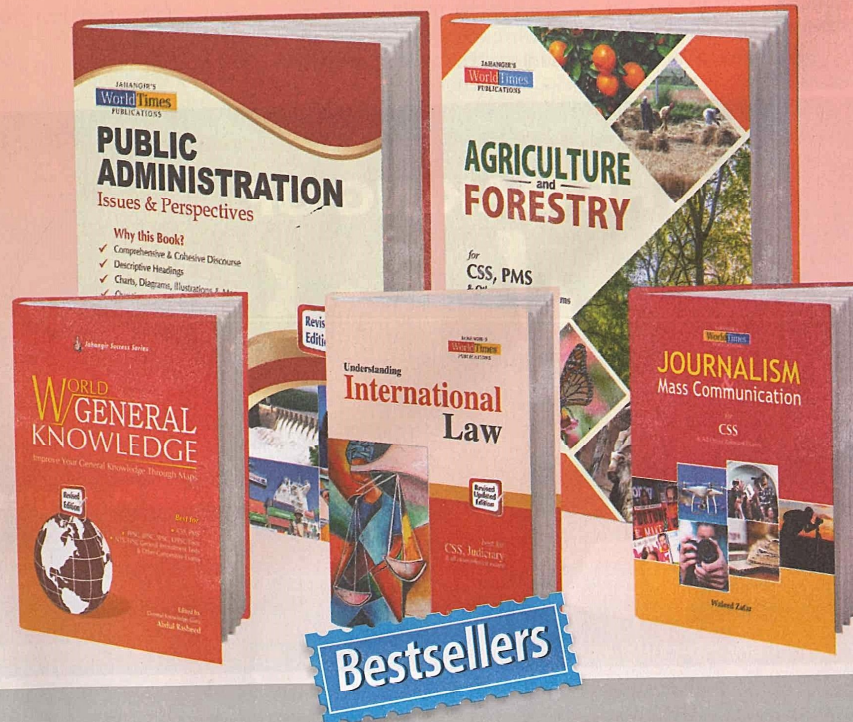
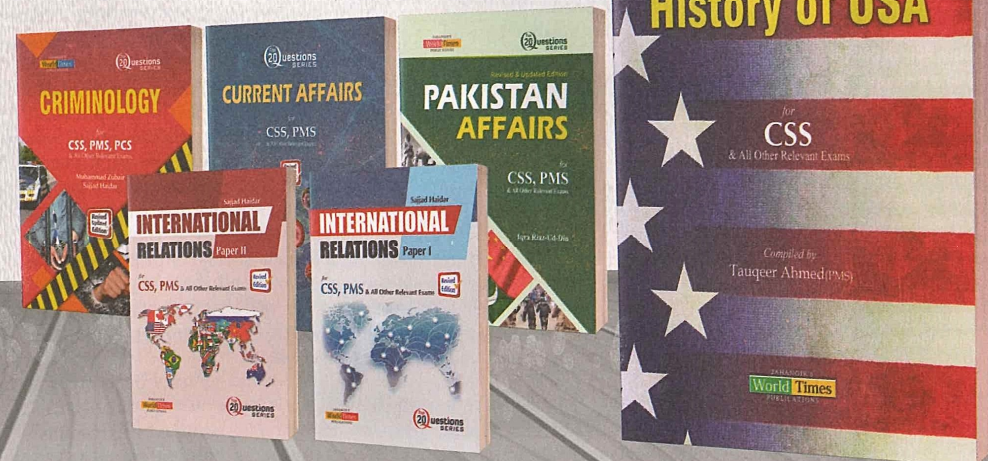
The foreign minister also briefed the EU HR/VP on the continued precarious human rights and security situation in occupied Kashmir and the latest moves by the Indian government to perpetuate its illegal occupation.

He urged the EU to take note of the systemic and gross human rights violations in the occupied territory and play its role for resolution of the dispute in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. □

The writer is a member of staff.

Top 20 Questions SERIES

STUDENTS' CHOICE #1



The establishment of Pakistan as an independent and sovereign state represented the march of a community to nationhood. It also demonstrated the determination of the predominant majority of Muslims of British India to establish their homeland with the objective of preserving and promoting their civilizational identity, rights as a distinct socio-cultural identity and interests in a society that was dominated by an unsympathetic majority. They wanted to set up their preferred politico-economic and social institutions and processes in a well-defined territory to ensure a secure future for them.

Three major factors shaped Indian Muslims political identity and their struggle to protect and promote it. These were the civilizational and cultural heritage and identity as a Muslim community in British India; the political experience of the Muslim elite in British India and their articulation of the demands of the Muslim community; and the shared aspiration which they developed for the future in the process of formulating and asserting their distinct socio-cultural and political identity.

Socio-Cultural Identity

The civilizational and cultural identity of the Muslim of British India could be traced back, on the one hand, to the teachings and principles of Islam that provided them a theoretical and intellectual foundation. On the other hand, the arrival of Muslims to the Indian Subcontinent from Arabia, i.e. Arab traders, as well as from what is today's Central Asia, Iran and Turkey brought cultural traditions, lifestyle and food habits that were shaped by the teachings of Islam and the local customs of each territory. Most of these Muslims from "outside" became an integral part of the society in India, blending the customs and cultural norms they brought with them and local traditions. This process

was helped by the conversions to Islam by local people belonging mainly to Hinduism and inter-marriages with or without conversions.

The Muslim rule in India created a sense of nostalgia among the Muslims of the Subcontinent who projected them as a socio-cultural identity different from local followers of other religions and the people of the Arab world, Central Asia, Iran and Turkey. They were described as "Indian Muslims," referring to the Muslim population of India that shared the teachings and principles of Islam with the Muslims living elsewhere and imbibed some local customs and traditions. Despite this sharing, the Indian Muslims maintained their socio-cultural distinctiveness which distinguished them in many respects from the local population and the Muslims living in the neighbouring states.

Political Relevance

The distinct Muslim identity began to gain political relevance after the British government directly assumed the responsibilities of governing India in the post-1857 period. It began to create a modern state system in India on the pattern of the British political experience with an emphasis on autonomous state institutions and processes within a framework of a codified legal and constitutional system. The gradual induction

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of open and competitive induction into civil services and the limited electoral system created a competition between the two major communities, the Muslims and the Hindus. The fact that the Muslims began to opt for modern education rather slowly and late in post-1857 period, mainly on the initiative of what is described as the Aligarh Movement, they found them at a disadvantage in this open competition.

Two other factors made the religio-cultural identity relevant. First, in 1867, the Benaras-based movement for replacement of Urdu language with Hindi written in Devanagari script in government offices alienated the Muslims who established Urdu Defence Society in several cities. Second, in the last decade of the 19th century, several Hindu revivalist movements gained momentum which essentially targeted the Muslim culture and heritage for exclusion and emphasized the need of establishing a puritanical Hindu cultural order.

The growing cultural divergence between the Muslims and the Hindu majority population, mainly in North India, began to manifest more frequently in the 20th century. The partition of Bengal, dividing Bengal into two provinces in 1905 by the British, produced two opposite reactions from the Muslim and Hindu/Congress elite. The Muslims welcomed the establishment of eastern Bengal as a separate province because it had a Muslim majority. The Hindu elite, including the Congress Party, viewed the partition of Bengal as a negative development that divided the "natural unity of Bengal". Their protest led the British government to reunite two Bengals into a single Bengal province in 1911. This decision was criticized vehemently by Muslim leadership.

These developments led the Muslim elite to evolve a political strategy to protect and advance their political rights and interests. They began to organize them by demanding separate electorate for electing Muslim representatives to the central and provincial legislatures in October 1906, and two months later, in the last week of December 1906, All India Muslim League was established in Dhaka, to project Muslim perspective on the political affairs of British India and suggest measures to protect the rights and interests of the Muslims.

By the end of the first decade of the 20th century, the religio-cultural identities of the two communities had become relevant to the politics of British India. The Muslim elite had come to the conclusion that the Muslim youth should get modern Western education to compete effectively for the new governmental and non-governmental opportunities, including the competitive recruitment to civil services. They also realized that they will have to create their own exclusive political forums to bring the Muslim elite together for deliberations on their demands for safeguarding Muslim identity, rights and interests in British Indian context.

The Changing Strategies

A review of the Muslim political struggle in British India shows that it represented continuity and change. The continuity was in the goals and the ultimate agenda of their political

struggle. It remained unchanged. However, the strategies to achieve these goals changed over time. What brought about these changes was the political experience from their interaction with the Congress Party and the Hindu community that was often dismissive of the Muslim League leadership, and adopted a disposition towards their demands that ranged from negative attitude to down-right hostility.

The goal of the Muslim League elite was to protect their civilizational and cultural identity that was inspired by the teachings and principles of Islam and the contribution of the Muslims to the history of mankind. They also demanded adequate guarantees to ensure the protection of Muslims' rights and interests in any constitutional and political arrangements in British India.

The strategies of the Muslim League elite to achieve these goals changed over time. Their strategies can be enumerated as follows:

1. Concentrate on modern education and avoid active involvement in politics. (Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and the Aligarh Movement)
2. Gradual initiation of political activity by the beginning of the 20th century; demand for separate electorate and the formation of the All India Muslim League
3. Demand for introduction of a self-government in India keeping in view its peculiar political conditions. (1913)
4. The Muslim demand for constitu-

THE MAKING OF PAKISTAN

Goals and Strategies





tional safeguards and guarantees for Muslim representation in the assemblies, cabinets and government jobs. Special arrangements to make sure that the interests of religious minorities are protected. (the Lucknow Pact, 1916; Jinnah's Fourteen Points, 1929; The Roundtable Conferences, 1930-32; and the 1937 provincial elections, as well as the working of the provincial governments in non-Muslim majority provinces, 1937-39).

5. Separate homeland demand in March 1940

6. Willingness to work within the framework of the Cabinet Mission Plan, especially its provincial groupings and right to review the overall arrangements after ten years.

7. The electoral triumph of the Muslim League in the 1946 provincial elections.

8. The Congress Party's refusal to accept the totality of the Cabinet Mission Plan.

The Muslim League leadership was willing to work within the framework of single country provided the Congress Party acknowledged the distinctive Muslim religio-political identity and provided constitutional and legal guarantees to protect their basic rights and interests in the constitutional arrangement.

The Muslim League was looking for iron-clad guarantees in India's constitution for assuring the Muslims that their religio-political identity, national rights and interests would be protected to their satisfaction. The Congress Party was not willing to give any guarantee to the Muslims to dispel their concerns and fears of being overwhelmed by an unsympathetic majority.

Separate Homeland

The political experience of the Muslim League elite and

activists led them to revise the strategies to protect and advance their identity, rights and interests. The worst fears of the Muslims were stirred by the hegemonic approach of the Congress ministries in the provinces (1937-39) where they used state power to impose Hindu culture and identity in the name of Indian identity. The Muslims were alienated to the extent that the Muslim League moved away from the federal model to a separate homeland option.

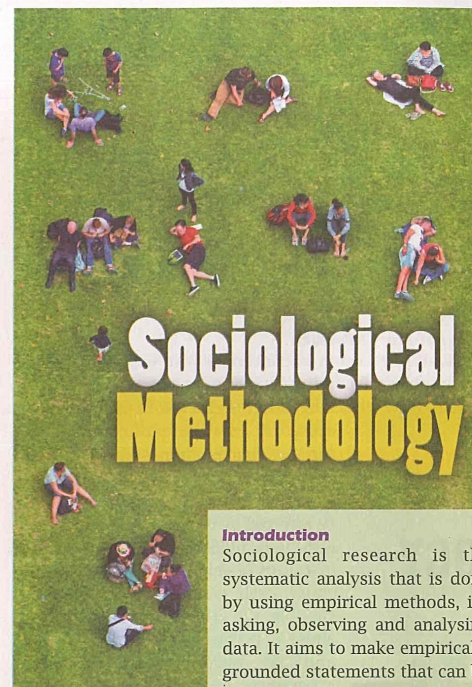
The underlying assumption for the separate homeland demand was that the Muslims of British India were a nation and, as a nation, they deserved to have a separate homeland. Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah said in his presidential address to the Lahore session of the Muslim League on March 22-24, 1940: "The problem in India is not of an inter-communal but manifestly of an international character, and it must be treated as such. So long as this basic and fundamental truth is not realized, any constitution that may be built will result in disaster and will prove destructive and harmful not only to the Muslims, but also to the British and Hindus. If the British government is really in earnest and sincere to secure the peace and happiness of the people of this Subcontinent, the only course open to us all is to allow the major nations separate homelands, by dividing India into autonomous national states."



Jinnah and the Muslim League offered a new nationalism as an alternate to the Congress-sponsored nationalism of one-nation secular India. He argued that the Muslims represented a distinct civilizational and cultural tradition based on the teachings and principles of Islam. The differences between these two nations were so strong that a "pure and simple" parliamentary democracy could not function because the electoral majorities and minorities were more or less permanent.

Though the demand for a separate homeland of Pakistan was articulated by the Muslim League elite for ensuring a secure future for the Muslims of India, however they mobilized popular support to strengthen the credibility of the demand for a separate homeland. The Muslim League contested the February 1946 provincial elections on two major demands: the Muslim League was the sole representative of the Muslims of British India; and it stood for the establishment of Pakistan. The election results showed that these two demands were endorsed by the Muslims of British India. This electoral success strengthened the demand for Pakistan and failed the Congress Party's attempt to sidetrack the Pakistan demand by parading some Muslim leaders who supported the Congress.

Jinnah's vision of Pakistan emphasized: Pakistan as a homeland to secure the future of the Muslims of this Sub-continent; democratic state that derives its ethical basis from the teachings and principles of Islam; a liberal and modernist vision of Islam which accommodated modern state system and democracy; and that Islam emphasized socio-economic justice, the rule of law and participatory governance and political management. ■



Introduction

Sociological research is the systematic analysis that is done by using empirical methods, i.e. asking, observing and analysing data. It aims to make empirically grounded statements that can be generalized, or test such

statements. Various approaches can be distinguished and different aims can be pursued, ranging from an exact description of a phenomenon to its explanation or the evaluation of an intervention or institution. In the pursuit of research, sociologists follow certain scientific principles that include theories and different methods. Theories and methods provide the accuracy of data and the ways to gather and process information.

Scientific Research

For example, Emile Durkheim conducted his research on suicide. He explored how the sociology can be used scientifically to uncover the impacts of social factors in our lives. He used different societal factors such as social integration, religion and psychological factors to show the rate of suicide.

According to Ruth A. Wallace and Alison Wolf, the sociologists use theoretical perspectives to express their assumptions or hypothesis systematically with comprehensive discourse. This discourse is based on theories. The hypothesis is a kind of assumption a sociologist makes to conduct its research. In a scientific language, the assumption is called hypothesis which is the theory-based statement that shows a relationship among various factors that can be tested through research. These factors are called variables. Sociologists try to anticipate a causal relationship among variables; if there is a relationship, then one variable

produces a change in other variables.

The research must be accurate, and to know its accuracy, the researchers must know the validity of their data. Validity refers to whether the research measures what the researcher intends to measure. Sociologists also need to know about the reliability that refers to whether research results would be the same if the research were repeated at different times or if the same thing were studied in different ways. There is also a need to practice objectivity in research that demands no inclusion of biased approaches and personal opinions.

Research Methods

According to Kathey S. Stolley, to conduct research, sociologists must gather data — any piece of information for research. Data can be primary as well as secondary. Primary data can be collected through primary resources such as questioning, interviewing and ethnography. On the other hand, secondary data can be collected through secondary resources such as books, newspapers, etc. Racheal Sherman and Anselm Straus organized data collection into three methods: questioning, ethnography and analysis.

1. Questioning

Questioning is one of the most common tools used in research method. Questioning is a form of survey research in which people are asked questions to determine their behaviours, attitudes and opinions. For example, in research on assimilation patterns of Afghan migrants in Pakistan, a survey can be conducted to gauge the sentiments of Afghan and non-Afghan people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

To generate a survey, a researcher needs to generate a sample that represents a large population. Moreover, the researcher can design a questionnaire to determine behaviour such as in the form of multiple choice questions (MCQs). Another method is interviewing that is a series of questions administered by a researcher. Interviews can be conducted in various ways such as face-to-face, through telephone, email and video-conferencing.

2. Ethnography

Second method of research is ethnography. In this method, the researcher would research field work. Ethnography is a research method that involves the observation of the interactions of everyday life. This can also be called an observational research. In this method, the researcher would observe the behaviour, traits, mores and societal environment of a certain phenomenon.

For example, in ethnographic research of a courtroom, the researcher would observe proceedings of the court, the behaviour of judge, prosecution and its overall environment. Ethnographic research contributes to Verstehen, Max Weber's concept that sociologists should develop subjective understanding by taking someone else's position mentally to understand their social world, lives and perspectives.

3. Analysing

To analyse data, two approaches are being employed: one is

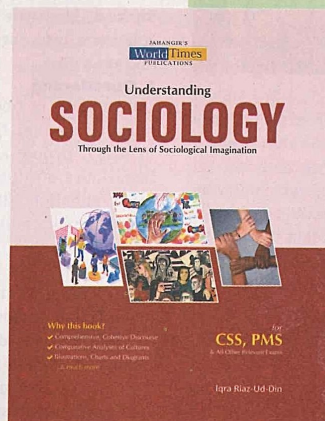
quantitative method and the other is a qualitative method. Qualitative methods are used to determine the essential characteristics, properties or processes of something or someone. Rather than desiring to count how many, how much or how often, qualitative researchers may attempt to study conditions or processes such as how police decide to arrest someone, the reactions or responses of a spouse or parent to the loss of a loved one, or the processes used in obtaining illegal drugs. This type of research often involves case studies (detailed studies of individuals or small groups of individuals, such as a family) and participant observation, in which the observer takes part in the activity being observed.

Quantitative method is concerned with the numerical analysis of data whereas the qualitative method is concerned with the interpretation of non-numerical data. Quantitative methods are designed to obtain numbers or amounts of something, e.g. the median age at marriage, the range of incomes, or crime rates. To quantify is to count, to determine frequencies, to measure amounts, or to state something in mathematical or statistical terms. This type of research often involves surveys or experiments.

Today, both qualitative and quantitative modes of research are widely used, with both recognized within the discipline as legitimate methods of social research. However, many sociologists demand "hard" facts and rigorously gathered data, and consider only these data to be what they regard as "real science"; they question the validity of impressions, interpretive descriptions, or "soft" data. On the other hand, many feminists would argue that numbers and hard data are viewed as masculine and that masculinity means power and superiority. Verbal descriptions, relational and emotional skills, and soft data are seen as feminine, and femininity is viewed as weak and inferior.

According to Uwe Flick, in quantitative research in studying a phenomenon, one would first start with a concept such as poverty. Then find out a theoretical perspective on that, i.e. models of poverty that can be drawn from the literature review. For empirical evidence, one must formulate a hypothesis or several hypotheses, which need(s) to be tested.

Moreover, quantitative research is more concerned with causations; for example, poverty is caused by the pandemic. On the contrary, qualitative research not necessarily starts from a theoretical perspective. It's more of analytical and descriptive nature and not connected with the numerical study. In qualitative research, we can use two to ten cases but the number of cases is infinite in quantitative research. Sampling in qualitative research is limited and in quantitative, it's random.



Types of Sociological Research

1. Descriptive Research

Descriptive research describes social reality, i.e. a descriptive study can be undertaken to determine whether the disabled people in Pakistan have more troubles to find jobs than people who are physically fit. Ethnography is a method popularly used among sociologists in descriptive research. Ethnography is a study where one observes and investigates a certain phenomenon.

According to Max Weber, ethnography is a method of studying the social and cultural dimensions of human interaction. It is a form of research focusing on the sociology of meaning through close observation of socio-cultural phenomena.

2. Explanatory Research

Explanatory research is concerned with explaining why a certain phenomenon happens or does not happen. It helps to resolve questions that are concerned with the problem of

causation. In all scientific studies, the variable that is supposed to cause an effect is known as the independent variable. The variable that is apparent to be affected by the independent variable is the dependent variable.

In a study of child abuse in Pakistan, the abuse itself would be the dependent variable, the effect; the causes of child abuse — perhaps such factors as stress and the parents' own childhood experiences of having been abused — would be the independent variables.

3. Evaluation Research

Evaluation research is concerned with the evaluation of a certain program or project. It determines as to what extent the goals of a programme or project have been achieved. For example, the research could be made in SOS village in

Lahore to determine the achievement of its intended goals. Evaluation research consists of two types of studies: outcome evaluations and field experiments.

Outcome research measures the effects of an organization's policies and programmes. Field experiments are tested situations created to include the actual conditions proposed by a policy, programme or project. The purpose of these test situations is to determine the effects of a new or proposed policy, programme or project.

Steps in Research

The process of research includes the following steps:

1. Stating the Problem

The first step in the research is to state the problem which needs to be investigated. The researcher can select a topic from various sociological phenomena; ranging from social realities to taboos based upon his/her personal experience or from common observation. The researcher needs to create a hypothesis or more hypotheses. For example, the hypothesis here is to make a comparative analysis of the

unemployment rate between Pushtun ethnicity and Muhajir ethnicity in Karachi.

2. Selecting, Defining and Sampling Variables

After creating assumptions or hypothesis or various hypotheses, the researcher needs to select the variables. To narrow down a problem to a manageable size the researcher would focus on variables. For example, to analyze the unemployment difference of Pushtuns and Muhajirs, we can employ two variables, i.e. ethnicity and unemployment.

One is a dependent variable and another is an independent one. When we hypothesize a cause-and-effect relationship between two variables, the cause is called the independent variable and the effect is called the dependent variable. In our example, ethnicity is the independent variable, and unemployment is the dependent variable; that is, we hypothesize that unemployment depends on one's

ethnicity. Next to test a hypothesis one must define the variables. Sampling would be done here in this example to get information about the ethnicity and employment status of people. To further narrow down research, we can take a sample from the adult population. Sampling involves two processes:

- obtaining a list of the population you want to study, and
- selecting a representative subset or sample from the list.

3. Gathering Data

The ways of gathering data include surveys, ethnography and field experiments. For instance, discussed in research methods.

4. Finding Patterns

The fourth step in the research process is to look for patterns in the data. If we study unemployment, for example, we will find that Muhajirs are twice as likely to be unemployed as Pushtuns (Statistical data). This finding is a correlation: an empirical relationship between two variables — in this case, ethnicity and employment.

5. Generating Theories

After a pattern is found, the next step is to explain it. Finding a correlation between two variables does not necessarily mean that one variable causes the other. For example, even

though there is a correlation between ethnicity and unemployment, many Muhajirs are unemployed and many Pushtuns are not. Nevertheless, if we have good empirical evidence that being Pushtuns increases the probability of unemployment, the next task is to explain why that should be so. Explanations are usually embodied in a theory, an interrelated set of assumptions that explains observed patterns. Theory always goes beyond the facts at hand; it includes untested assumptions that explain the empirical evidence.

In our unemployment example, we might theorize that the reason Muhajirs face more unemployment than Pushtuns is that many of today's Muhajir adults grew up in a time when the ethnic difference in educational opportunity was much greater than it is now. This simple explanation goes beyond the facts at hand to include some assumptions about how education is related to ethnicity and unemployment.

Although theory rests on an empirical generalization, the theory itself is not empirical; it is, well, theoretical. It should be noted that many different theories can be compatible with a given empirical generalization. We have proposed that educational differences explain the correlation between ethnicity and unemployment. Others might argue that the correlation arises because of discrimination. Because

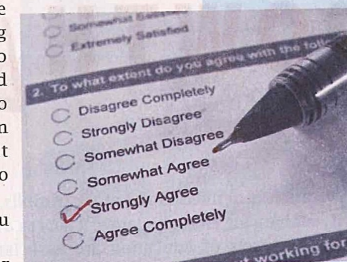
there are often many plausible explanations for any correlation, theory development is not the end of the research process. We must go on to test the theory by gathering new data.

Content Analysis

Content analysis refers to the systematic examination of documents such as archives and newspapers. The process is almost same as conducting survey but instead of taking a sample of individuals and then asking them a list of questions, sociologists take a sample of documents and then systematically ask questions about those documents.

Using Existing Statistics

Whether researchers use a qualitative method or quantitative, they have to use the statistics provided by different governmental sources. ■



THE IMPACT OF EDUCATION ON

ECONOMIC GROWTH



Navaira Ramzan

Before the advent of modern nation-state system, the responsibility of the state was restricted to only protecting its citizens from foreign aggression. However, with the passage of time and coming into force the modern nation-state system, it was felt that the states are required to cooperate and benefit from each other's resources so as to make the lives of people more secure and comfortable, as well as to avoid conflict. This development has led to the understanding and consensus that there are certain fundamental human rights that must also be protected. This understanding gave birth to international law, and evolution of a mechanism for its observance and implementation by the states. This was further necessitated after the devastations caused by the two World Wars, consequently paving the way for the establishment of the United Nations Organization (UNO). The adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 was the first step towards formally recognizing human rights, and it includes various economic, social, cultural and political rights. The right to education regardless of any discrimination has also been the part and parcel of this universal commitment.

Education is defined as the stock of skills, competencies and other productivity-enhancing characteristics. It acts as a major determinant of human capital. Higher levels of education are associated with better social and political outcomes and education plays a crucial role in breaking inter-generational poverty. Educated individuals are not only able to fend for themselves and perform their duties as a responsible citizen, but also to contribute towards the economic growth of their nation.

Economic growth is a very important phenomenon in the long run. It explains the major differences in the wealth and living standards of nations. Growth could be attributed to either a rise in capital and labour or productivity in which the capital could be of various types but mainly physical and human. The classical growth theory suggests that growth, in the long run, is sustainable due to external technological progress while new growth theories suggest that investment in human capital helps sustain growth in the long run. Human capital, in economics literature, is mainly measured using the years of education acquired.

The major mechanism through which education increases growth is enhancing human capital and productivity.

Firstly, education increases the collective ability or skills of the workforce to carry out existing tasks; hence, more output could be produced in less time which raises the productive efficiency.

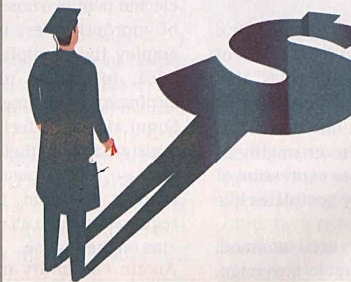
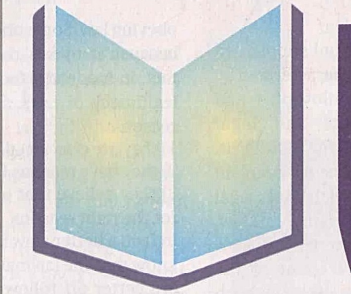
Secondly, education, especially that of secondary and tertiary levels, facilitates the transfer of knowledge about new products, and helps the labour in absorbing foreign technologies which are more efficient; hence, causing productivity to improve. Investing in education also boosts a country's capacity to innovate and move on the technological frontier forward, as educational institutes are a hub for research and development. Various other spill-over effects are also associated with education, such as decreased fertility rates with increased primary education of women, or increased life expectancy in countries with educated masses.

Numerous studies validate the positive impact of education on economic growth; according to UNESCO, by spending one US dollar on education, as

much as US\$10 -15 can be generated in economic growth. Similarly, it reports that if 75 percent more 15-year-olds in 46 of the world's poorest countries were to reach the lowest OECD benchmark for mathematics, economic growth could improve by 2.1 percent from its baseline and 104 million people could be lifted out of extreme poverty. It is through prior mentioned mechanism - education improves economic growth.

If we look at the economic progress of Pakistan, the GDP growth has been following a stop-go cycle. Pakistan's GDP per capita has been, on average, rising till date, but growth spurts followed by immediate reversal have kept it from achieving its true potential. To quote an example, Pakistan was way richer than South Korea in the 1960s but now South Korea has a far higher GDP than that of Pakistan. The major source of growth for the Korean economy was its investment in human capital, along with the pursuit of an outward growth policy; their skilled labour assimilated the foreign technology causing the manufacturing sector to grow by 17 percent between 1960 and 1970. The lack of investment in education, and hence a lack of skilled labour, which has been the major source of growth for the most Western economies, along with structural problems might explain the lack of sustainable growth for Pakistan.

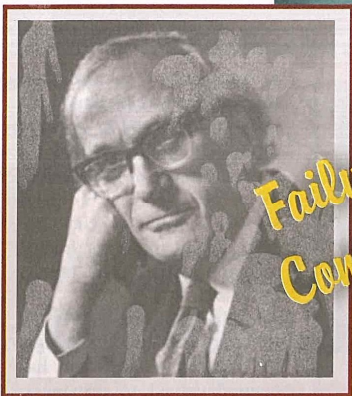
According to World Bank figures, Pakistan's spending on education as a percentage of GDP was 2.9 percent in the year 2017 while the world average is 4.45 percent of GDP. Similarly, if we look from the perspective



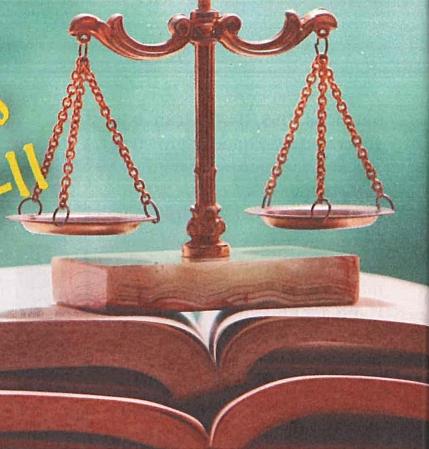
of government spending on education, it was 14.54 percent in the year 2017. As per international benchmark at least 4 percent of GDP should be allocated to education sector, keeping in view the commitment made for implementation of one of the targets of SDGs.

After the 18th amendment to the Constitution of Pakistan, the subject of education has been devolved to provinces; now it is the responsibility of the provinces to come up with comprehensive strategies for improving the standard of education, and making it accessible to poor segments of the society, particularly those residing in rural areas. The allocation of funds as percentage of GDP to education has been hovering around 3 percent which is not sufficient for turning around the education sector. Further, the capacity for utilization of allocated funds is also questionable as the funds are embezzled in the absence of a comprehensive supervisory mechanism. At this juncture, time Pakistan needs to take a stock of its policies, particularly in education sector, so as to align it with the modern requirements of changing environment around the world to make our human resource competitive in the world community and to tread on the path of economic progress and well-being of the people. This is the only solution to not only achieve economic security but also attain the ultimate goal of being a welfare state. ■

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Failure of Austin's Command Theory-II



Mawra Raja



Introduction

John Austin's theory does not fail simply and solely because it has been mischaracterized by Prof. HLA Hart (a British legal philosopher, and a major figure in political and legal philosophy) as 'gunman writ large'. Rather it, additionally, fails because it does not convincingly explain legal obligation, the modern characteristics of legal systems such as continuity of law and persistence of law, sovereignty, constitutionalism and varieties of law. Besides, it does not offer a complete account of the necessary conditions of a legal system. Against such background, it is argued that Austin's command theory of law plays a reductionist role in our society.

Austin and legal obligation

Austin was an arched legal positivist. As an analytical thinker, he was concerned with setting out the purview of jurisprudence and obviating it from impurities that common law had injected into law. To achieve this, he formulated a governmental view of law; one that was a top-down model and was about might is might; as opposed to might is right. This made law an expression of power with no business with modern-day postulates like separation of powers and the rule of law.

The main elements of the command theory are: command, sanction, habitual obedience and illimitable sovereign. The outcome of this is vertical governance.

For Austin, command is an expression of power coupled with a threat of sanction. Command and duty are correlative ideas, that is, where a command is found, a duty is presumed, and vice versa. But a command is incomplete without the power to inflict sanction. Against such a background, legal obligation is an amalgamation of two elements:

- 1) ability of the sovereign to impose sanction; and
- 2) a belief that sanction will ensue in case of disobedience. This type of normativity of law is unconvincing as it has, prima facie, resemblance with gunman writ large. This is because citizens have many varying motivations for

obeying law. Some obey law for fear of punishment; others because it makes them feel good about themselves. In fact, in modern structures, compliance is a matter of the legitimacy of laws. Citizens follow laws for three main reasons:

- 1) they are convinced that the laws are legitimate;
- 2) they have reasons for compliance with laws; and
- 3) they believe that non-compliance will attract criticism for the right reasons.

In fact, a better view is that citizens follow laws when they know that the lawmaker is *de jure* authority, and that they are better off following the laws than defying them. My own conviction for following laws of my own country comes from the fact that they are made by democratically elected people whose expertise in deciding the standards of appropriateness is far better than that of my own. I employ the example of Muslim Family Law Ordinance, 1961, to explain my point. Under section 7 of the Ordinance, a divorce is invalid if it is unregistered. As a Sunni Muslim, I feel a divorce is valid even if it is not registered. Nonetheless, I feel obliged to obey this law because it was passed by Majlis-e-Shura (parliament) keeping in mind the problems arising from non-registration such as denial of divorce and false charge of zina on the spouse.

Austin, continuity and persistence of law

Besides, his other failure is unsatisfactory explanation of the continuity and persistence of law. This is explained by Prof. Hart through his popular example of Rex. The point he makes is valid. When Rex is replaced by Rex 1, the latter cannot be said to receive obedience from the bulk for his first command since habit formation is a time-taking activity. Till such a habit is formed, there is interregnum in Rex 1's reign. Roger Cotterrell contends that this is no problem as the obedience is to the office, and not to the office-holder. This looks convincing in the light of 'the Crown never dies.' However, the limitation here is that succession to the office is determined by law as is apparent from the Act of Settlement, 1700. This makes

the successor sovereign subject to law which compromises the illimitability of the Austinian sovereign. To call the qualification of British sovereign to be a protestant a non-legal requirement is to deny the existence of Constitutional monarchy in the United Kingdom.

Austin and sovereignty

Additionally, the persistence of law is explained through Hobbesian idea of sovereignty 'that the sovereign is not he who first made law but he who let it continue as law.' On this account, the European Union Withdrawal Act, 2018, is law by virtue of the future parliament not repealing it. This is a confusing way of explaining things. The Withdrawal Act was made by the Conservative Party and if tomorrow the Labour Party takes in office and decides not to repeal it, it would be said that the Withdrawal Act has persisted. The problem here is that the British citizens had given obedience to Conservative Party, and not to the Labour Party. Saying that the Labour Party is the sovereign for the Withdrawal Act is to state that Labour Party and Conservative Party are one and the same by reason of their office. This is not the true spirit of fair and free elections. The electoral process is a party-based, and not office-based, system. Thus who sits in the office matters more than ever and commentators are wrong to assume that the obedience is to the office, and not to the person.

Moreover, Austin's explanation of the sovereign as a person or group of persons that is in a habit of having obedience from others and not offering the same to any other body or persons is untenable. I am convinced because in the British constitution, the ministers have Henry VIII powers under which changes to the primary laws can be made. These bind the Queen in Parliament. Thus the Queen in Parliament is in a habit of accepting changes to primary legislation through delegated legislation. Some might argue that this acceptance is a result of primary legislation itself. The problem is it binds the sovereign to legal limitations even if self-imposed. For Austin, the sovereign was legally illimitable; hence, free from self-imposed legal limitations.

Austin and constitutionalism

Much more than this, Austin's greatest mistake is his illimitable sovereign and the categorization of constitutional law as positive morality. Modern legal systems are full of examples where constitutional limitations serve to control the sovereign power. In an uncoded country, like the United Kingdom, there are systems of checks and balances to ensure that sovereign is under the law. Two examples come to mind, here. One is

the Court's refusal in Evans case to allow Attorney General to use statutory non-disclosure certificate as a wheel to override Court's ruling. The other is Miller (No. 2) under which Prime Minister Boris Johnson's decision to prorogue Parliament for five weeks without proper justification was held unlawful. It is great wonder how Austin would respond to these checks and balances.

Austin and varieties of law

His other failure is his reductionist view of law as positive law with close affinity with the criminal law. This makes

people think that law is a coercive order in the hands of the powerful with no system of checks on abuse of power. With the growing legal accountability of the powerful, it is difficult to accept that the sovereign is legally illimitable. For the Crown to think that it can make new prerogatives, ignore court orders under Crown Immunity, dissolve parliament against Fixed Term Act 2011, claim that

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decisions taken under Order in Council are non-justiciable or that the legality of these Orders is non-reviewable are mistaken ideas. These limitations give people hope against the misuse of power and convince them that legal obligation is not motivated by force alone; other factors such as accountability of the powerful also motivate their compliance. Therefore, a modern legal system is not based on force and obedience model; rather it is based on validity of secondary rules and effectiveness of primary rules of obligation.

Conclusion

In the light of the foregoing discussion, it is argued that Prof. Hart had not been mistaken in categorizing Austin's theory as 'gunman writ large'. In fact, with the sovereign command-sanction model, it cannot offer a fuller account of how modern systems work under constitutionalism. □

The author teaches jurisprudence and legal theory at Pakistan College of law, Lahore. She can be contacted at: mawraraja@protonmail.com

Energy crisis is a paramount topic of the 21st century. It is a matter of utmost importance for a country where energy crisis exists. Because in the current scenario of developing technology where quest for finding the possibility of life on the planet Mars is on, energy crisis existing in a country calls for the national debate. Relevantly, most countries have won accolades in the generation of surplus electricity for domestic use, and development of science and technology based on the electricity generated from various natural resources. They have witnessed tectonic shift of technology in the power generation, moving from non-renewable resources to renewable ones. After the production of electricity through coal-based, hydro-cum-thermal power projects, huge solar energy plants are being established worldwide for enhancing the power-generation capacity. Although most countries have electricity more than needed for their domestic use, for many countries including Pakistan, it is still a Herculean task to overcome the prolonged energy crisis, notwithstanding the availability of natural resources in abundance.

Energy Crisis in Pakistan

Causes and Remedies



Energy crisis has been a widely-debated topic in Pakistan. Throughout the country's history, both military and civilian governments came to power; but unsurprisingly, through polarized politics, national policy framework failure, entrenched inefficiencies related to production and distribution of power. They failed miserably to fulfil their constitutional duties. They did not feel duty-bound to view it as an existential problem that had drastic effects on the economy and socio-cultural fabric of the country. Amidst a burgeoning population and a growing national demand for electricity, Pakistan seems to have been trapped into an unprecedented energy crisis, thereby resulting into economy taking a nosedive, industrial sector going to the dogs and educational development at low ebb. Although the PML(N) government sought to undo these effects on economy through building new power projects, PTI-led incumbent government has failed to pay the attention required to boosting up the energy sector of



Afaque Ahmad

Pakistan. The policy focus of the PML(N) government on setting up energy projects based on renewable energy is worth praise. It not only tried to wean this sector from oil-fired power production but also shifted its policy focus on enlarging the generation capacity. In its tenure, it was able to deliver about 19000 MW to consumers in the third quarter of 2017.

Causes

There are multifaceted causes of energy crisis in Pakistan. One among the most prominent of them is the lack of robust national policy framework regarding the development of power projects and energy-generation capacity. The government's inability to formulate such a framework and seek to implement it fully aggravates electricity woes, worsening the general circumstances for the masses whose daily lives depend on electricity. The government fails to produce electricity to fulfil the demand. It appears often that the government of Pakistan is least concerned about the crisis the country has landed into. Lack of vision and absence of effective

management are the reasons why energy could not be generated and supplied properly. A better policy framework and the will to implement it in letter and spirit will be a great progress towards eliminating the crisis. Another cause of this crisis is not modifying the old technology framework and capitalizing on natural resources of Pakistan. Technology is a fundamental requirement of almost every field and there is little possibility to work out best energy production policies without it. It emphasizes that policymakers must choose the projects that are more efficient and less expensive. Production of energy from solar and wind resources is the latest trend. Insofar as

electricity. Unstructured distribution, transmission inefficiencies, growing line losses and unbridled power theft depict the dismal state of affairs on the part of the government. If the wastage of electricity is stopped, it can have positive benefits for the national exchequer. Power theft is the wastage of electricity and a major setback to the economy as well. To thwart it, accountability of the corrupt officials must be ensured so that proper functioning of electricity and conservation of energy could be ensured. The feeble policies of the government must also be replaced by the strict and strong ones.

As far as the wastage of energy is concerned, there is an acute carelessness of general masses. Not only the people from lower middle class are held responsible for wasting electricity, the people from the elite class are also involved in this practice. They don't care about saving electricity as they have all resources at their disposal. Most of the energy is reportedly consumed by them. Besides this, there is a greater use of lights turned on 24/7 in the shopping malls, marriage banquets and restaurants. To this end, media is equally responsible for the ignorance of the masses regarding energy conservation. It fails to deliver on its responsibility to convince people to save energy by cutting down its inappropriate and unnecessary use. In essence, media can play an effective role in ensuring that people use electricity in a proper, responsible way.

Remedies

To address the causes, and eradicate the effects of energy crisis, there are remedial measures that government can capitalize on. Though multifarious remedies exist, most important of them are to be deliberated on thoroughly. Policies of developed countries can be emulated after tailoring them to our indigenous requirements. Successive governments have failed to bring robust national policy framework and effect its implementation. But, this must change now. ■

The writer is a student of MA English Literature at Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur.

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modern technology, building energy reserves and launching projects based on modern technology to meet the demand. Moving towards launching solar energy projects and building small dams to store water, through which energy capacity can be increased, necessitates an increase in budgetary allocations. Ageing equipment that also results in the energy loss needs an immediate overhaul. For this equipment to remain efficient, handsome amount of funds must be invested so as to control transmission losses.

Moreover, the shortfall in the supply of electricity is a result of flawed, ineffective regulation and distribution of

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Energy Crisis Pakistan

Causes and Remedies



Energy crisis has been a problem in Pakistan. Through history, both military governments came unsurprisingly, through national policy framework fail inefficiencies related to production power. They failed miserably to fulfil duties. They did not feel duty-bound existential problem that had dras economy and socio-cultural fabric of the country. Amidst a burgeoning population and a growing national demand for electricity, Pakistan seems to have been trapped into an unprecedented energy crisis, thereby resulting into economy taking a nosedive, industrial sector going to the dogs and educational development at low ebb. Although the PML(N) government sought to undo these effects on economy through building new power projects, PTI-led incumbent government has failed to pay the attention required to boosting up the energy sector of



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management are the reasons why energy could not be generated and supplied properly. A better policy framework and the will to implement it in letter and spirit will be a great progress towards eliminating the crisis. Another cause of this crisis is not modifying the old technology framework and capitalizing on natural resources of Pakistan. Technology is a fundamental requirement of almost every field and there is little possibility to work out best energy production policies without it. It emphasizes that policymakers must choose the projects that are more efficient and less expensive. Production of energy from solar and wind resources is the latest trend. Insofar as Pakistan is concerned, it hardly pays attention to establishing solar and wind energy plants, although they can boost our energy sector. Given the worrisome prospects of our national economy, it is not feasible to invest in oil-based thermal power generation which is used for less than 5% of the world's total generation. Pakistan is rich in natural resources which, if utilized optimally, can generate electricity more than is required. Thousands of tons of coal present in Thar can help add to national energy production.

Fiscal constraints in the implementation process of robust policies is another major cause of the worsening energy crisis and it needs due attention. Budget is not properly allocated to adapt to modern technology, building energy reserves and launching projects based on modern technology to meet the demand. Moving towards launching solar energy projects and building small dams to store water, through which energy capacity can be increased, necessitates an increase in budgetary allocations. Ageing equipment that also results in the energy loss needs an immediate overhaul. For this equipment to remain efficient, handsome amount of funds must be invested so as to control transmission losses.

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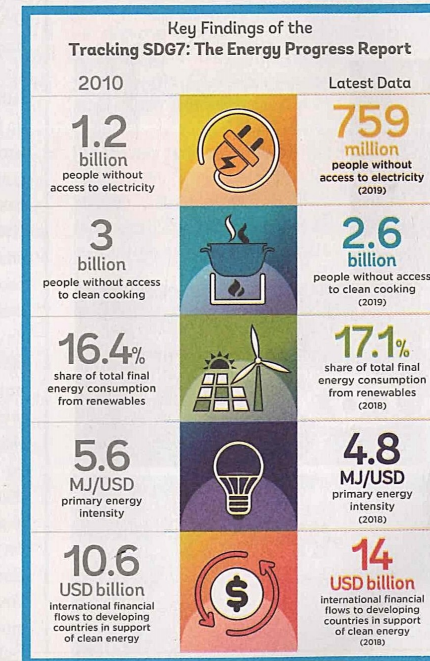
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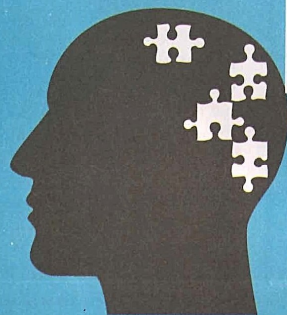
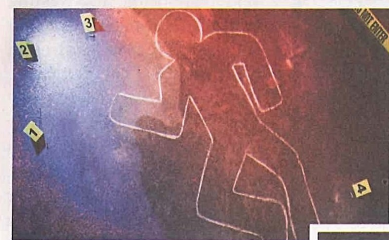
Areesha Riaz



I pose you a question: why do you think people commit crime? You may think of a number of reasons such as unemployment, low wages and low productivity. Alternatively, you may say a lack of education, that is, lack of training and coaching actuates it. No doubt, these are contributors to crime commission but to think that they are singular is to keep one in dark. This is because people lack the ability to differentiate between right and wrong due to acceptance of wrongful behaviour in a family. A person, who belongs to a family that has association with weapons, and uses them in a casual manner, is much likely to commit crime without guilt. The more a person sees delinquent acts not being criticized by his community, the greater the chance of such actions being repeated. On the other hand, unfavourable circumstances are also a trigger. What would you think if I told you that people today are likely to commit violent and criminal acts due to poor nutrition and environmental factors? For instance, a person whose family is poverty-stricken is likely to commit crime of theft, dacoity, robbery, etc. in order to provide his family with basic necessities of life. He may feel guilty of doing it, but, at the same time, he is powerless.

So, we can say that poverty is closely tied with crime; but does it really cause crime? There are some theories that also point to elements like

Crime is a recurring aspect of life and the list of its harms is never-ending. Yesterday, it was just murder and manslaughter; today it is corporate manslaughter, white-collar crimes and even genocide. Still the wish to control crime lingers without wondering what it takes to commit it regardless of the obvious consequences, i.e. punishment. Throughout history, people have tried to explain why crime is committed. One such was by the 19th-century Italian prison psychiatrist Cesare Lombroso – often described as the father of modern criminology. He was an Italian doctor who researched and wrote on a variety of topics. But his most important, and certainly the best, is the book "The Criminal Man" (1996). He developed his theory of criminal anthropology to explain why people commit crime. He suggested that the brains of criminals were mal-developed, and there are basic differences between offenders and non-offenders. In his review of prisoners, he found that criminality was inherited and that criminals could be identified by physical attributes that considered them being atavistic; in particular, their manner of writing, the size and shape of their skull, nose, ears, manner of talking, and so on. Thus, criminals were born that way. It must be admitted that Lombroso makes out the strongest possible argument for such a biological view of crime. However, the problem remains: are these biological roots true causes of crime? Can criminals be recognized by physical attributes? Is human behaviour predetermined? In the following paragraphs, we will discuss both environmental and genetic factors to understand the behaviour of a criminal.



Social and Genetic Factors to Crime Commission

A Philosophical Approach

pressure caused by cultural goals and social structures, as the reasons for criminal behaviour. Meanwhile, there is a continual debate on what is the role of social factors in explaining crime. Sociologists have proposed various theories by examining social and environmental factors that influence individuals to commit crime. They believed that crime is shaped by external factors: their experiences within the neighbourhood, the peer group and the family. So, can we say that their desire for material gain leads to property crimes such as theft, robbery and white-collar crimes? While the wish for lust, revenge and power leads to heinous crimes such as assault, murder and rape because it is difficult to isolate brain activity from social factors as well as the effects of parental relations, impaired education system, betrayal from spouse, and so on. Unfortunately, Lombroso fails to see this fact. He fails to see that the habits are derived from social environment rather than from individual biological conditions. Primarily, sociologists analyze social phenomena at different levels and from different perspectives. Anomie is one theory of explaining why people commit crime. The French sociologist Emile Durkheim was the first to discuss the concept of anomie in his study 'Suicide'. Anomie means conflict, confusion or an absence of the norms of a society. This leads to a feeling that one does not belong or connected to others. Hence, this is the reason one lacks purpose, and encourages deviance and crime. For example: a person who belongs to a society which places rich people at higher position while, on the other hand, a poor person must earn money to live a basic and better life because there is no proper structure which usually helps people in deciding what to do and how to do and what is right and what is wrong. By such means, if society does not provide its members with enough opportunities, many will turn to criminal methods to earn a living. Some other theories in this domain are:

(I) **Conflict theory:** This theory states that tensions and conflicts arise when resources, status and power are unevenly distributed between groups in society and that these conflicts become the engine for social change. For example, crimes committed by members of wealthier classes, such as politicians or celebrities, often receive less

MAJOR CRIMINOLOGY THEORIES

AND HOW THEY AFFECT POLICY

RATIONAL CHOICE THEORY

TOUGH ON CRIME

The U.S. justice system is largely influenced by a classical criminology theory, *rational choice theory*, which assumes that the choice to commit a crime arises out of a **logical judgment of cost versus reward**. This theory emphasizes punishment as the best means to deter individuals from committing crimes: Make the cost sufficiently outweigh the reward and individuals will decide that crime is not worth it.

BIOLOGICAL AND BIOSOCIAL THEORIES

ADDRESSING ROOT CAUSES

Classical *biological* and *biosocial* theories of criminality stated that people are "**born criminals**" who cannot be deterred from committing crimes: Whether due to mental or physical disability, criminals cannot learn to control themselves.

SOCIAL LEARNING THEORY

LEARNING BY EXAMPLE

Social learning theory proposes that we engage in either criminal or noncriminal behavior based on the social environment around us, and that we're especially influenced by how other people reward or model behavior. This theory asserts that **criminal behaviors are learned** and therefore can be counteracted by developing a social environment in which criminal behavior is not normalized.

LABELING THEORY

ONCE A CRIMINAL, ALWAYS A CRIMINAL

Labeling theory proposes that **applying a label**, whether that means informally designating a youth as a "bad kid" or a "troublemaker" or a more formal arrest or incarceration record, has a long-term effect on a given person. Policies inspired by labeling theory were popular in the 1970s, but they were perceived as ineffective and fell out of use, replaced by "tough on crime" rational choice approaches.

punishment than similar crimes committed by people of lower socioeconomic status.

(ii). Social structure: It suggests that people's place in the socioeconomic structure influences their chances of becoming a criminal. While, interactionists stress that crime results from our interaction with family members, peers, friends and other people, and from labelling by the criminal justice system.

In summary, we have learned that social factors like poverty, high rate of unemployment and inequality trigger criminal actions such as street crime, tribal traditions and parochial prejudices. We cannot prevent crime unless we address the root causes and factors behind crime; poverty, education, inequality, social factors and mental health, to name a few. Therefore, a criminal acquires his interest and ability to justify his vindictive acts of crime through his association with people, circumstances, resources and power that are unevenly distributed.

The conditions prevailing today in Pakistan affect every individual's life. Right to life, liberty and security are basic human rights and the state is under obligation to provide those to its citizens. In order to tackle crime, the law must be implemented in letter and spirit to bring peace and safety to the nation. At the same time, it is the duty of every individual to stand up and prevent any violations and breaking of the law. For example:

(a) Parents: The home is the first school for children. Through bonding with their parents, children internalize the moral values that are likely to shape their future conduct and behaviour. Therefore, it is the duty of parents to have a good relationship with them; if you notice anything that concerns you, address the issue right away. You must ensure that your child develops in the healthiest way possible. Try to be your child's friend so that whenever you feel something suspicious about your child, you can ask him right away comfortably.

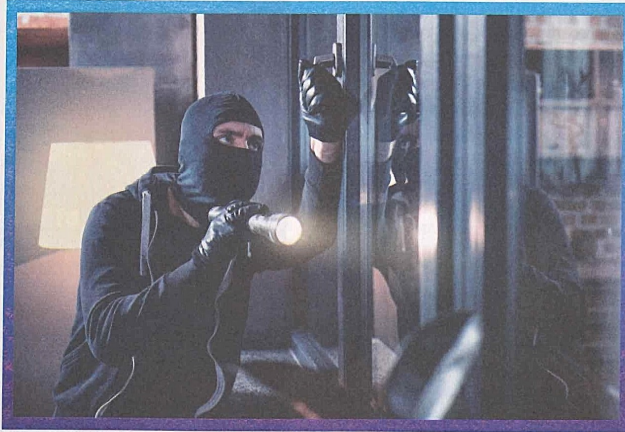
(b) Educational institutions: School is considered a central area to prevent crime. Teachers should have important discussions with their students such as about violence, smoking, sex, drugs, drinking and death, to make their student understand that no topic is a taboo. Since Emile Durkheim - a world-famous French sociologist - considers education as a crucial agent of socialization; he was particularly interested in the teaching of morals, i.e. right and wrong, to children. During the process of teaching, teachers must learn the socio-cultural norms themselves. They can supply their student instruments by

which they can realize their social goals. Thus, the school is considered a central area to prevent crime.

(c) Policymakers: They should require that each educational institution develops an anti-harassment policy as an aspect of prevention of heinous crime.

(d) Youth: The youth also play an essential role in adapting to, and possibly even reshaping, social norms. The youth's role in society is to appreciate the works of those who have laboured tirelessly before them. They must participate in all issues of interest to their societies.

(e) Judiciary: They have to expedite the trials so that delay does not defeat justice and they should give sentences as per the sentencing guidelines, if available, so that their personal bias is minimized. In addition, we can say that rights and duties go hand in hand because people often use rights as a justification of their wrong acts which may be antisocial or illegal. Therefore, the difference between a

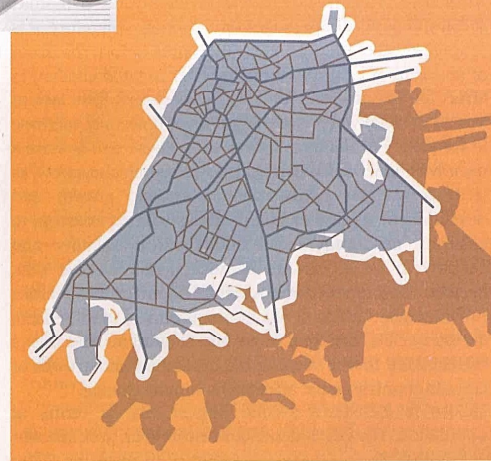


student in a college and a boy in a reform school is, in no sense, organic, but is rather due to the accident of social environment.

On that account, we need responsible citizens to stop crime. On the other hand, economists tend to explain crime rates in terms of probabilities of conviction and arrest. For example, if a crime is unlikely to be solved, or if the punishment is worth the risk, the people will be more willing to try their luck.

Considering the whole of discussion made above, we can say that people commit crimes for a variety of different reasons. Maybe, they would like material gain or they find their life monotonous and need some excitement and adventure. ■

The writer is a student of LLB (Final Year) at Pakistan College of Law, Lahore.



Lahore's Depleting Water Table

How to prevent taps from turning off

Muhammad Atif Sheikh

Either it is in abundance or there is an acute scarcity of it, "water" in both states leads to humanitarian crises. Its abundance in the form of floods leaves behind countless human tragedies while its scarcity makes life of the living organisms miserable. The history of Pakistan is replete with incidences of these two

water-related disasters. Either floods or droughts, our country is, unfortunately, becoming a hotbed of these catastrophes and we now often witness these significant manifestations of climate change.

Sometimes rivers receive so much water that they overflow their banks while at times they shrink so much that they look just like canals. Both these forms of natural disaster are, on the one hand, affecting our agriculture while our cities are growingly faced with shortage of drinking water, on the other. Lahore is also among the cities that are fast moving towards scarcity of potable water.

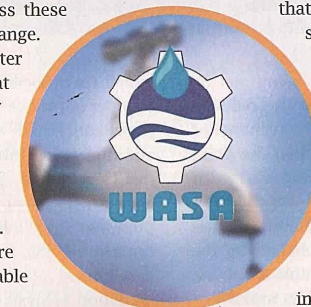
Owing to its key economic, social and financial activities, the city of Lahore is expanding in terms of both population and geography which is leading towards an increased pressure on natural resources while the curse of environmental degradation is also on the rise. This unbridled sprawl and degradation are, inter alia, limiting Lahore's groundwater reserves that could lead to a crisis in the near future, if timely remedial measures are not taken. History calls us to learn lessons from it but we, probably,

are not in a mood to do so. That is why Lahore, the population of which has more than doubled between 1998 and 2017, is being overburdened by more and more people. Lahore, which is the smallest district (area-wise) of Punjab province, is the most populous district of Pakistan. Although it covers only 0.22% of the country's total area, it is home to around 5.35% of the country's population - and 15% of the country's urban population. The density of population in Lahore can be ascertained from the fact

that, at present, the average population per square kilometer in Lahore district is 6275.39 - the highest ratio in the whole country. Moreover, Lahore district covers only 0.86% of the total area of Punjab province but it hosts 10% of the total population - and 27.5% of the urban population - of the province. Likewise, 27.5% of Punjab's total urban houses are in Lahore while 10.27% of the total number of under-construction houses are also being built within its precincts. An increase of 100% has been recorded here

during the period between the fifth and the sixth population and housing censuses, and this vividly reflects the geographical sprawl of the city.

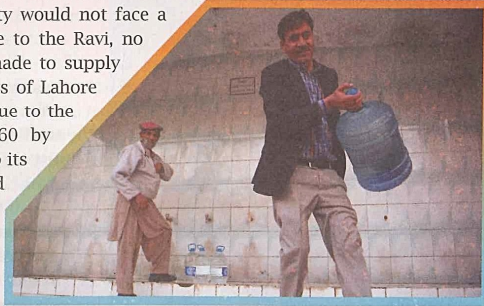
One of the major reasons behind such a great population pressure is the migration of people towards Lahore. Water insecurity, climate change and economic inequality ignite rural-urban migration. This is depicted by the Pakistan Labour Force Survey 2014, which shows that 15% of migrants in Punjab migrate to Lahore. This growing



number of people in the city means that there is essentially an increased demand for water required for daily needs. To meet this increasing demand, excessive pumping is being done due to which the water table of the central parts of the city has fallen by around 40 meters. And, it is estimated that it will further go down to 70 meters by 2025 and to 100 meters by 2040, if the situation is not addressed prudently. Extracting water from this depth will not be feasible, technically and financially, as the demand for water in Lahore district, by then, would be 2522 cusecs.

River Ravi, which is the principal reason behind the establishment of Lahore as it flows past it, served, historically, as the main source to meet the needs of city. The first modern drinking water supply system for the city was installed by the British in 1876. Under this system, water was transferred from the Ravi River to the Lakhpat Rai's tank (popularly known as Paniwala Talab) that had a capacity of 250 cubic meters. However, with the passage of time, this facility was abandoned. In the past, due to the negligence of the city's administration and an unfounded belief that the city would not face a shortage of groundwater due to the Ravi, no proper arrangements were made to supply surface water to the residents of Lahore for domestic use. But, later due to the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 by which Pakistan had to give up its right over Ravi's waters proved the fallacy of this thinking. Over time, the steady decline in the flow of the Ravi made it impossible to divert water to meet the needs of the city. It resulted in a situation

whereby all of the city's water needs were being met by groundwater resources. On the other hand, the reduced amount of water in the river also affected the recharge of the water table. The situation has now reached the point where the groundwater level in Lahore is falling at a rate of one meter per annum due to the increased use of water. This alarming situation has also echoed in a report titled as "Pakistan Gaining More from Water," published by the World Bank. The report says that the water table in Lahore, Quetta and some parts of South Punjab is falling rapidly. The relationship between water and cities is very significant. They require a huge input of drinking water which inevitably impacts the water system. Due to the rapid sprawl, cities need additional water. To meet this demand, cities are digging deeper and deeper in search of water, thus exploiting more water resources. Falling groundwater levels in urban areas could be a precursor to a major humanitarian crisis because a large number of people, who have limited access to alternative sources of



water, are affected by it. The expansion of cities promotes water insecurity which can lead to significant economic, social and political challenges for a country. Therefore, it is prudent to take precautionary measures before the onset of any kind of crisis. Two major water-related challenges affect the sustainability of urban settlements; first, lack of access to clean water and sanitation and second, increase in frequency of floods and droughts. These issues leave a negative impact on human health, well-being and safety, as well as on the environment, economic growth and development. Access to safe drinking water is essential to ensuring maximum social and political stability and equality in urban centers because people believe that, besides abundant employment opportunities, cities provide more efficient water management and reliable access to clean drinking water and sanitation. And this is the thinking that is causing the expansion and growth of cities in countries most affected by climate change.

Lahore is Pakistan's second largest city in terms of population. The city is dependent entirely on groundwater

resources to meet the water needs of its 11.1 million residents. At present, Water and Sanitation Agency (Wasa) is pumping around 2.45 million cubic meters of water daily through its 585 tube wells. In addition, there are 75 tube wells of Lahore Cantonment Board and 91 of Walton Cantonment Board which are supplying water to their respective areas. Along with these tube wells, the Defense Housing Authority,

Model Town Society, Pakistan Railways colonies and a large number of private housing societies are supplying water to their concerned areas through private tube wells. In addition, 4611 tube wells, according to Punjab Development Statistics 2019 are extracting water also for agricultural purposes. These tube wells collectively were pumping 7.17 million cubic meters of water daily for domestic (53%), industrial (13%), institutional (10%) and agricultural (24%) uses, according to the WWF report 'Situation Analysis of the Water Resources of Lahore'.

Per Lahore Master Plan 2040, due to population growth, city's geographical size and over-pumping, Lahore's groundwater reserves have been experiencing a sharp decline since the 1970s. Over the years, exclusive reliance on groundwater has lowered the city's water level. Adding fuel to this fire is the increasing number of tube wells. As a result, many existing tube wells are becoming non-functional and the city is facing frequent water shortages. Therefore, a complete reliance on groundwater resources

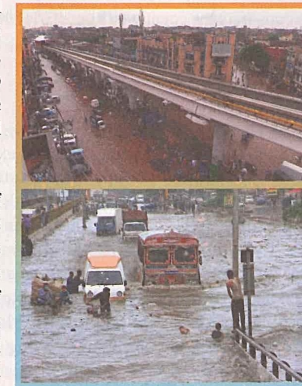
is not feasible for the future because groundwater availability is much higher than its recharge due to which the city's current groundwater reserves are declining

by 304 million cubic meters annually.

This bitter reality has been pointed out in Wasa's October 2019 report 'Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for Water Supply Infrastructure'. The main reason for this decline is the reduction in recharge from the Ravi River that often faces shortage of water flow. Under the Indus Waters Treaty, India has exclusive control over the waters of Ravi, and it has significantly reduced the flow of this river in Pakistan in recent years. Climate change, flawed irrigation practices and hydropower projects in India and the construction of Thein Dam (a.k.a. Ranjit Sagar Dam) in 2000 has greatly affected the hydrology of Ravi, which has significantly reduced groundwater recharge in and around Lahore.

The average flow of water in Ravi, which was 1300 million cubic meters per day between 1922 and 1961, decreased between 1985 and 1995 to 800 million cubic meters per day. From 2000 to 2009, it dropped further to 175 million cubic meters per day. The river is almost dry in the winter and spring seasons and it comes to life again, to some extent though, during monsoon, i.e. in July and August. Around 82% of the city's groundwater recharge comes from Ravi while rainfall and canals recharge it by 12% and agricultural lands contribute 6% to that. So, the chances of further depletion of water table and the failure of tube wells have increased manifolds. But the story does not end here; another aspect of the situation that will have grave repercussions is the discharge of all the domestic and untreated industrial wastewater of Lahore - around 540 million gallons per day - into the Ravi. As a result, the river has turned into a sewage drain. Since the Ravi plays an important role in the recharge of Lahore's water table, the contamination of its water due to the massive pollution is making the groundwater unfit for drinking.

Another source of recharge of Lahore's water table is rainwater. The city receives an average of 715 mm of rainfall annually, which, according to experts, is sufficient to recharge its groundwater. However, it does not contribute much to the recharge of water table as the expansion of the city and related infrastructural development are also affecting the inflow of groundwater and most of the rainwater is wasted in the city, causing urban flooding. It is especially because the uncultivated lands in and around the city, which help in the recharge of



the water table, are increasingly being covered with concrete as Lahore is sprawling at a fast pace. The Urban Unit Punjab's 'Urban Gazette' of January 2018 says that the city of Lahore, which covered 220 sq km in 1995, increased to 336 sq km in 2005 and to 665 sq km in 2015. And, if the current pace goes on, the city will be spread over an area of 1320 square kilometers by 2025 - one percent increase in Lahore's population leads to an increase of 2.82 percent in its area. Recharge of Lahore's water table from rainfall is 10 to 25 percent, depending on its quantity, intensity and location. In those areas of the city where most of the agricultural land is being eaten up by construction activities, the recharge does not exceed 10% of the total rainfall. In adjoining agricultural areas, however, this recharge is up to 25%.

Therefore, meeting Lahore's water demand in the near future by groundwater alone will not be possible, and utilizing surface water resources will also be indispensable. As an

alternative to Lahore's groundwater, the Ravi, Lahore Branch Canal, Khaira Distributary and Bambawala-Ravi-Badian-Deplapur (BRBD) Canal are the important sources of surface water that can be used to alleviate the pressure on the city's water resources. Water can be obtained from any of these four sources and used for domestic, commercial and industrial use after treatment. Owing to very low water level, the Ravi cannot be considered a reliable source of surface water resources. For sustainable availability of surface water, a reliable alternative to the Ravi can be the BRBD Canal which flows in the East of Lahore. This canal itself takes off from Lower Chenab Canal. The Lahore Water and

Sanitation Agency (LWASA) has planned for the provision of the surface water source, for which 2.45 million cubic meters (1000 cusecs) water will be drawn in phases from the BRBD Canal. In the first phase, Punjab Irrigation Department has agreed to provide 100 cusec water. Initially, 100 cusec of water from BRBD Canal near Bhaini Road will be supplied, after treatment, to the selected serving areas of Lahore. In addition, LWASA has taken various important steps to prevent waste of water in the city. It will, hopefully, reduce the pressure on Lahore's groundwater resources. The city's water supply has been reduced from 18 hours to 11 hours a day in the summers. But despite all this progress, recharging the depleted water table and saving the Ravi River from becoming a wastewater drain is a formidable task that requires immediate attention and effective measures. ■

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The US' Afghan Gamble



The Afghanistan, being hapless, has been in state of turmoil since long.

The Afghans have faced the wrath of the world superpowers: First the British, then the Soviet Union and now the United States. Especially for the last two decades, Afghan people have borne, and may also bear in the future as well, the brunt of the act they neither accomplished nor participated in – the 9/11. Mind you, there were no Afghan nationals among the 19 hijackers on any of the 9/11 planes.

To punish and eradicate the al-Qaeda, the alleged perpetrators of the 9/11, the United States, along with its NATO allies, invaded Afghanistan by launching the Operation Enduring Freedom. After fighting for almost two decades, they are now marching on to end the 'forever war'. For this purpose, a peace deal was signed last year in Doha between the US and Taliban. According to the agreement, the US will withdraw its troops from Afghanistan in return for the shirking of violence and not allowing the al-Qaeda to operate from the Afghan soil by Taliban.

Now to abide by the promise, and to end the longest war in the American history, the Biden administration has ordered a speedy withdrawal of US troops from the war-torn country. For the pullout of troops at a quickening pace without any political settlement, President Biden has attracted much criticism, but he is intent to go ahead with the plan anyway. He has even overruled the military leaders who wanted to keep a larger presence to assist Afghan security forces and, keeping the past experience in mind, prevent Afghanistan from becoming a stage ground for extremist groups. The erstwhile commander of US troops in Afghanistan, General Austin Miller, has warned that the country may be headed toward a civil war. President Biden

As the Afghan end-game approaches, the Western forces, on the one hand, are quietly quitting Afghanistan to complete their withdrawal, the Afghan Taliban, on the other hand, continues its march at a quickening pace, capturing territories one after another. Amidst all this, the government in Kabul fumbles to respond to the situation. The Biden administration, despite facing much criticism for a hasty withdrawal policy, is intended to pull out all its troops from the country by August 31st this year. However, this scenario has led Afghanistan to a catch-22 situation.

Faridullah

has also rejected the idea presented by the United Kingdom to keep some troops in Afghanistan to assist the Afghan national army. George W. Bush, the former president of the United States and the founder of the American war on terror by sanctioning the invasion of Afghanistan soon after the 9/11, has also criticized the Biden's decision to pull out. He has argued that the drawdown will lead to nothing but a chaos. He said: "I am afraid Afghan women and girls are going to suffer

unspeakable harm."

Having the past experience of 1990s, the pullout of the US troops will, of course, worsen the Afghan crisis, which, in turn, will have deleterious impacts on the whole region, particularly the neighbouring countries. However, according to some analysts, this hurriedly and untimely pullout may be an intentional attempt by the US to keep China, the country which is now challenging its economic might, in a problematic position. According to them, the Taliban, having sympathy for their Uyghur Muslim brethren against the Chinese atrocities, might give China tough time in the Autonomous Region of Xinjiang. China has called the US exit an



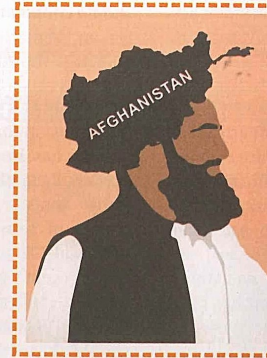
irresponsible attempt to challenge the regional peace.

However, whatever the case, the turning tail by the US itself has certain loopholes which need to be appraised. To begin with, the US-Taliban peace deal, which paved the way for the US departure, has many flaws. For instance, the US bypassed the Afghan national government, the true representative of the Afghan people, in this deal. This has really boosted, on one side, the morale of Taliban, who are now capturing districts one after another in a sense of victory and air their confidences. While on the other side, it has badly lowered the morale of the Afghan government, which is continuously losing grip on the territory it once controlled. How can one be bypassed in dealings of his/her own home? Though the US-Taliban talks were to be followed by intra-Afghan parleys, the broader prospects for the latter are dim. For a peaceful Afghanistan, successful intra-Afghan dialogues are inevitable. The drawdown of foreign troops without a ceasefire or a framework for a political agreement between the Taliban and the Afghan government is not a good omen for the country—and the region as well.

Second, the Trump administration, the predecessor of Joe Biden's, negotiated the peace deal with Taliban demanding next to nothing in return for the US pullout. And the Taliban only sat on the negotiating table to achieve their top objective of having foreign troops leave without giving up violence or any political concession. The US should have made them abide by the laws of world to bring peace to the war-torn country.

Third, instead of pointing out that Taliban has failed to disassociate itself from al-Qaeda, a condition for the US withdrawal, Joe Biden hurriedly moved ahead with the withdrawal policy. This is despite knowing the fact that, like 1990s, Afghanistan may once again plunge into a full-blown civil war and become a terrorist haven.

Fourth, the hushed and rushed drawdown has endangered the lives of those Afghans who have helped the US over the years. They have worked for the US as interpreters, drivers, cooks, etc. and could possibly face revenge attacks by the Taliban for helping the US against the former. Although the US is



concerned with their evacuation, they should have been evacuated before the US troop withdrawal.

Fifth, the US is leaving unfulfilled its duty of 'white man's burden' by fleeing Afghanistan. Twenty years ago, the US invaded Afghanistan to 'democratize' the country. However, defending his withdrawal policy, Biden now says that "we did not go to Afghanistan to build nation. And it's the right and the responsibility of Afghan people alone to decide their future, and how they want to run their country." However, is it so? Did they really not invade Afghanistan for nation building? If it is so, what they

were doing for the past 20 years. The fact is that the US, up till now, has expended \$2.26 trillion to modernize Afghanistan's archaic tribal society, fulfilling the duty of 'white man's burden'.

Sixth, Biden says the US has 'achieved' its goal of eradicating the al-Qaeda, and, the game being over, it's time to bring back the boys home. But is it really so? The situation today is as it was 20 years ago, albeit more chaotic this time. According to a recent report of the UN Security Council, a significant part of the al-Qaeda leadership resides in the region along the border with Pakistan. Undoubtedly, the void created by the evacuation of US troops may be filled by the transnational terrorist groups to operate their notorious activities.

Seventh, the hasty departure of the US has not given the Afghan army enough time to prepare for the post-US Afghanistan. Defending his withdrawal policy, President Biden has said that Afghan military has the ability to repel the Taliban. Is it so? The ground realities tell another story. The Taliban has been swiftly capturing districts one after another. The Afghan army, being corrupted and having low morale, has been outranked by the Taliban. Most recently, more than 1,000 Afghan troops reportedly escaped to Tajikistan to save their own lives after clashing with Taliban. Similarly, hundreds of Afghan forces have

surrendered to Taliban without any fight. In some cases, as the media reports show, they have joined the latter who have given them food and money. The US has spent so much money for building a strong Afghan army, but to no avail. Thus, by a hasty departure, the US is not giving the people of Afghanistan an opportu-



nity to decide how they want to be governed, as Biden has said. They are giving the militants an opportunity to oppress them.

Lastly, the Biden administration has pledged to continue military and humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan and not leaving it in the lurch. However, the recent advances do not validate this stance. As the US troops are rushing towards homes, Afghan government is rushing helplessly to find new ammunition suppliers, arrange independent fuel contracts and hire non-American maintenance crew to fix their military vehicles and copters. Moreover, its pledge of military assistance proves hollow by noting how much equipment has been removed or destroyed while handing over bases to Afghans. The Bagram exit is a case in point. The US troops left their showpiece airbase at Bagram in the dead of night without even informing the Afghan soldiers. Before the local troops could take control of the base, looters had plundered it. This has been thematically described by an Afghan soldier in these words: "In one night, they lost all the goodwill of 20 years by leaving the way they did, in the night, without telling the Afghan soldiers who were outside patrolling the area."

Thus, consequently, the hurried departure of the US has put the Afghan government in a catch-22 situation. Being helpless against the ferocious onslaught of Taliban on the Afghan cities, it has inducted private militia to engage the Taliban locally and to prevent assault on Kabul. This militia also includes the old warlords. They are once again in the game, thus inching Afghanistan toward a full-blown civil war.

However, it is very unfortunate that the Afghan government, and its populace, too, has always blamed Pakistan for the situation in that country. Recently, the Afghan President Ashraf Ghani said that Pakistan has "negative role" in the Afghan peace process. Such unjustified claims really disappoint Pakistan which is the most affected country from the turmoil in Afghanistan. Although Pakistan once patronized the Taliban for its so-called 'strategic depth' policy, the recent endeavours it has made, like always, in bringing peace to the war-torn country must not be doubted. Pakistan has been persuading the Taliban for peace talks, and the historic peace deal between the US and Taliban was only made possible due to the untiring efforts of Pakistan. So, instead of blaming Pakistan for its woes, the Kabul government

should cooperate with regional states, especially Pakistan, for an Afghan-owned and Afghan-led peace process. Similarly, the Afghan elite, instead of squabbling among themselves, should unite to save the nation.

Indubitably, the turmoil in Afghanistan has had repercussion for Pakistan. The recent increase in terrorist attacks has been linked with the situation across the border. Recently, the National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister, Moeed Yusuf, has acknowledged the danger of terrorist attacks in Pakistan, and said that outlawed TTP members can enter Pakistan with refugees, as the recent wave of violence has compelled the Afghans to seek shelters in the neighbouring country. For this reason, Pakistan, keeping in mind the past experience, should devise a clear-cut policy on how to handle the looming refugee influx, and the counterterrorism and law-enforcement capabilities must be enhanced.

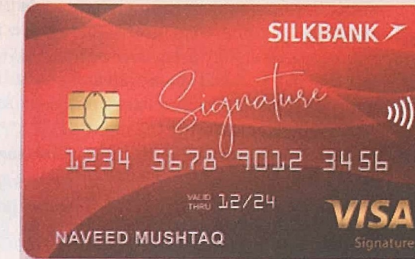
On their part, the Taliban, who will have a leading role in the future coalition government, should manifest that they have a comprehensive administrative plan for the post-America Afghanistan. They need to demonstrate that they, in coordination with Afghan national government, can transform Afghanistan, whose people have suffered terribly for the past many decades, into a peaceful and prosperous country, where every person, including women and minorities, gets his/her due rights.

Finally, the elongation of Western interference won't help anyone. However, had the US sought political settlement to the Afghan imbroglio, the looming civil war could have been avoided. However, it's not over yet. It should continue its economic assistance for the development and reconstruction of Afghanistan, as Afghan government could collapse, according to a new intelligence assessment, within six months of US withdrawal. It should train Afghan army to enhance their counterterrorism capabilities and equip them with modern combative skills. Moreover, it should make the Taliban abide by the conditions of the peace deal, e.g. not to allow the Afghan soil to be used against any country. Similarly, all the other regional actors—China, Russia, India, Iran and Saudi Arabia—by quitting their proxies, should work earnestly to salvage the war-torn country. ■

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1. Take a deep breath

While waiting to be greeted by your interviewer, take a few moments to do some breathing. By doing this, you can redirect the troublesome emotion you're experiencing and be able to focus on something else. Holistic health expert Andrew Weil, MD, praises breathing exercises, saying, "Since breathing is something we can control and regulate, it is a useful tool for achieving a relaxed and clear state of mind."

To do this most effectively, take a deep breath through your nose and feel your stomach expanding, and then slowly blow it out through your mouth. Repeat this three times, while concentrating on centering your thoughts. The best thing about this technique is that you can do it anywhere and quite unnoticeably, so if you feel your nerves start to swell during the interview, simply take another breath.

2. Don't play around

Nervous fidgeting is one of the most telltale signs that you're nervous, so this is an incredibly important skill to master. My go-to trick is to keep my hands clasped together on the table or in my lap to avoid any subconscious table tapping, hair twirling, or otherwise noticeable squirming. I'm also a leg-shaker – but keeping my hands in my lap and applying a bit of pressure to my legs helps remind me to keep the shaking to a minimum.

If you think you don't have any fidgety habits, think again – most people aren't aware of their own nervous tendencies because they are such an ingrained part of their natural behaviour. To double check, try doing a few mock interviews with a friend who can call you out on any fidgeting. Once you know exactly what to avoid, you can practice

controlling it.

3. Maintain eye contact

One of the best ways to make a hiring manager feel that you are more confident than you look is to maintain steady, natural eye contact throughout the interview. Mary Griffin, a human resource Director for a national healthcare company, says, "A key giveaway of a nervous Nellie is a lack of direct eye contact—looking down, looking

After the long, exhausting journey of searching for and applying to new jobs, you've just been rewarded with a golden ticket—an interview.

But after a brief moment of celebration, the panic sets in: Your heart is already pounding, your palms are beginning to sweat, and you're wondering: Are hiring managers like sharks—can they smell fear?

If the thought of sitting across from a hiring manager makes your stomach turn, you're not alone. But don't let your nerves get the best of you! Try one of these strategies that will help you feel calm, cool and composed—or at least make you appear that way.

**How to appear
Confident in an Interview
... Even When You're
Freaking Out**

away, and not looking the interviewer directly in the eyes. A more confident interviewee appears to be engaged with the interviewer."

One way to maintain regular eye contact is to focus on a spot between the interviewer's eyes. You can even imagine a colourful bull's eye there or whatever it takes to keep your eyes from wandering too much.

On the flip side, you should not stay so intensely focused on maintaining eye contact that you end up sending out a creepy vibe. So, remember to take natural breaks, like looking down at your resume every once in a while. It's a balancing act, so just keep practicing until it feels comfortable.

4. Press pause

Some of us, myself included, tend to wander when we're nervous. This can be dangerous because once we start talking, it's incredibly easy to veer off topic and say more than what's needed; or worse, more than what's appropriate.

To preempt any rambling, I try to answer each question with only one thought or idea at a time. For example, if you're asked to describe a trait you disliked about a previous supervisor, you could say, "I found that his tendency to control conflicted with my productivity." Then stop. This will save you from unnecessary add-ons like "(S)he was a total control freak whose inability to let me make my own decisions made me want to run down the

DURING THE INTERVIEW

08 Make a good first impression with a nice, firm handshake

09 Be friendly, polite and remember to smile

10 Display confidence through body language—don't slouch in your chair or look down when you're speaking.

11 Speak loudly and enunciate when giving your answers

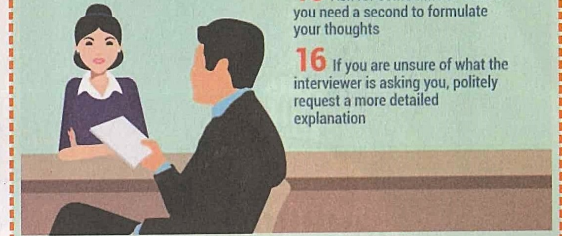
12 Always try to frame your answers in a way so that they relate to the job and why you're the best candidate for it

13 Be honest—it's better to turn down a job you're not a good match for than to try to 'fake it until you make it'

14 Prepare yourself for curveball questions you didn't train for—take your time answering

15 Ask for some time to think if you need a second to formulate your thoughts

16 If you are unsure of what the interviewer is asking you, politely request a more detailed explanation



hall screaming obscenities"—even if that may be the most honest answer.

The key to mastering this technique is to keep your tone sincere, so that even if your responses are brief, they don't come off as curt or dismissive. It's more about sticking to one main topic per question instead of going off a nervous tangent. And don't worry, if the interviewer wants you to elaborate on a certain topic, (s)he'll ask.

5. Think positively

Finally, calm your nerves by reminding yourself that you deserve to be there. Hey, you wouldn't have been invited to the interview if you weren't being seriously considered as a candidate. Use this knowledge to your advantage to mentally pump yourself up before the interview. It can take the edge off enough to allow you to approach the situation with a burst of self-assurance and poise.

Most importantly, remember that while you certainly need to be calm, collected and confident in order to secure the job, an interview is not a life-or-death situation. Hiring managers are humans, too, and they'll understand and forgive a few minor nervous errors. ☐

PREPARING FOR THE INTERVIEW

01 Dress professionally and make sure you are well-groomed

02 Prepare your portfolio ahead of time and practice using it so that you know where everything is located

03 Practice your answers, but don't make them sound rehearsed—just focus on hitting the main points

04 Do your research on the company and position that you're interviewing for

05 Bring any materials you may need including business card, resume and portfolio

06 Bring a notebook and a pen or pencil so that you can take notes or jot down questions



The Constitution of the United States of America divides the responsibility for populating the top positions in the executive branch of the federal government between the President and the Senate. The appointments clause (Article II, Section 2) empowers the President to nominate and, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint the principal officers of the United States, as well as some subordinate officers. The Constitution further authorizes Congress to vest the appointment of "inferior Officers ... in the President alone, in the Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments." Thus, some high-ranking positions in the federal government may be filled through means other than presidential appointment with Senate confirmation, and Congress has created many such positions in statute.



How US Senate Confirmations Work?

Waqar-ul-Hassan

Whenver a US president nominates someone to fill a position in his administration — whether it's just after the election or another time during his term in office — that nominee's appointment is to be confirmed by the US Senate. The role of the Senate in the confirmation process is defined in the Constitution. Article II, Section 2 provides that the President "shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint high government officials." The Senate gives its advice and consent to presidential appointments to the Supreme Court and to high-level positions in the Cabinet

departments and independent agencies. The Senate also confirms appointments of members of regulatory commissions, ambassadors, federal judges, US attorneys, and US marshals. Somewhere between 1,200 and 1,400 government positions require confirmation. While many confirmation hearings take place just before and after a president takes office, the Senate must hold confirmation hearings for replacement appointments throughout a president's term. Historically, the Senate has confirmed most presidential nominations, but "in rare instances" a vote to confirm has failed. **Why the process?**

In theory, having the Senate confirm nominees is a sound idea. The

president is the head of the executive branch and, like any boss, should be allowed his or her choice of employee. Yet because the president acts in the public trust, it is fitting that the people's representatives scrutinise nominees. But the number of positions requiring such approval makes the process unwieldy. Not only do all cabinet positions require Senate confirmation, so do the agency heads and hundreds of other senior posts. And the length of the confirmation process has grown over the years. Ronald Reagan's appointments took an average of 56 days to confirm. By the time Donald Trump was in office that had risen to 115.

Stages

The appointment process for

executive branch positions is generally considered to have three stages: selection and nomination by the President, consideration by the Senate, and appointment by the President.

1. First the nominee is vetted by the president's legal advisers and the FBI to ensure that the appointment is legal and that there are no conflicts of interest. During the clearance process, the candidate prepares and submits several forms, including the "Public Financial Disclosure Report" (OGE 278e), the "Questionnaire for National Security Positions" (SF 86), and a supplement to SF 86 ("86 Supplement"). The clearance process often includes a background investigation conducted by the Federal

it is in session.

2. In the second stage, the Senate alone determines whether or not to confirm a nomination. The Senate's action on a nomination varies, depending largely on the importance of the position involved, existing political circumstances, and policy implications. Many presidential appointees are confirmed routinely by the Senate, without public debate. Other appointees receive more attention from Congress and the media through hearings, investigations, and floor debate. Historically, the Senate has shown particular interest in nominees' views and how they are likely to affect public policy. Two other factors have sometimes affected the examination of a

Administratively, nominations are received by the Senate executive clerk, who usually arranges for the referral of the nominations to committee, according to the Senate rules and precedents.

The committee reviews it and issues a report (and sometimes grills candidates in a hearing which provides a public forum to discuss a nomination and any issues related to the program or agency for which the nominee would be responsible). Senators have used hearings to explore nominees' qualifications, articulate policy perspectives, or raise related oversight issues. At the committee stage, there are four possible outcomes—the committee could make a favourable recommendation,

Recess Appointments

In some circumstances not normally associated with a new president's initial Cabinet appointments, the president may fill vacancies in executive branch positions temporarily. One way is through a recess appointment. The Constitution empowers the president to make this sort of limited-term appointment to fill a vacancy without Senate confirmation when that chamber is in recess. Recess appointments, however, expire at the end of the Senate's next session. In the modern era, presidents have used their power of recess appointment to circumvent the process and so Congress responded with legal restrictions on paying such appointees in some cases. Since 2007, the lawmakers have, at times, used creative scheduling to prevent the president from making recess appointments. President Obama's controversial use of recess appointments culminated in a unanimous Supreme Court ruling in June 2014 that he violated the Constitution in making three appointments to the National Labor Relations Board during a brief Senate recess in 2012. Not only were Obama's appointments unconstitutional, but so were board decisions involving those appointees. In the court's first-ever decision on the breadth of the president's power in making recess appointments, the justices said such appointments must be made during a Senate recess lasting at least 10 days. And if the Senate says it is in session, the court ruled, it's in session.

Bureau of Investigation (FBI), which prepares a report that is delivered to the White House. It also includes a review of financial disclosure materials by the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) and an ethics official for the agency to which the candidate is to be nominated. If conflicts of interest are found during the background investigation, OGE and the agency ethics officer may work with the candidate to mitigate the conflicts. At the completion of the clearance process, the nomination is ready to be submitted to the Senate. The president signs a parchment officially nominating the individual, which is sealed in a special envelope with wax and hand-delivered to the Senate while

nominee's personal and professional qualities: whether the President's party controlled the Senate and the degree to which the President became involved in supporting the nomination. Some nominations are sent straight to the full Senate, but much of the Senate confirmation process occurs at the committee level.



an unfavourable one, withhold one or take no action. The nomination then moves to the Senate floor to be debated and then decided by a simple majority vote.

3. In the final stage of the appointment process, the confirmed nominee is given a commission signed by the President (which bears the Great Seal of the United States) and sworn into office. The President may sign the commission at any time after confirmation, at which time the appointment becomes official. Once the appointee is given the commission and sworn in, he or she has full authority to carry out the responsibilities of the office. □

On Jan. 25, 1919, nearly 30 countries approved a proposal to create a commission to establish the League of Nations. Meant to keep the peace in the aftermath of World War I, the League—championed by US President Woodrow Wilson—was approved at the Paris Peace Conference and went into effect a year later on January 10, 1920. Though it only functioned until April 1946, it is considered a forerunner to the United Nations and its impact can still be seen today.



Abdullah Bin Aziz

Introduction

The League of Nations was an international organization that existed between 1920 and 1946. Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, the League of Nations vowed to promote international cooperation and preserve global peace, in the wake of World War I. The League achieved some success, but it ultimately was unable to prevent the even deadlier World War II. The League of Nations was the predecessor to today's more effective United Nations.

Composition

The League was composed of a General Assembly, which included delegations from all member states, a permanent secretariat that oversaw administrative functions, and an Executive Council, the membership of which was restricted to the great powers. The Council consisted of four permanent members (Great Britain,

France, Japan and Italy) and four non-permanent members. At its largest, the League of Nations comprised 58 member-states. The Soviet Union joined in 1934 but was expelled in 1939 for invading Finland.

Goals of the Organization

World War I (1914–1918) had caused the deaths of at least 10 million soldiers and millions of civilians. The Allied victors of the war wanted to form an international organization that would prevent another horrific war. American President Woodrow Wilson was especially instrumental in formulating and advocating the idea of a "League of Nations". The League arbitrated disputes between member countries in order to peacefully preserve sovereignty and territorial rights. It encouraged countries to reduce their amount of military weapons. Any country that resorted to war would be subject to economic sanctions such as a halt to trade.

Member Countries

The League of Nations was founded in 1920 by forty-two countries. At its height in 1934 and 1935, the League had 58 member countries. The member countries of the League of Nations spanned the globe and included most of Southeast Asia, Europe and South America. At the time of the League of Nations, nearly all of Africa consisted of colonies of Western powers. The United States never joined the League because the largely isolationist Senate refused to ratify its charter.

Languages

The official languages of the League were English, French and Spanish.

Administrational Structure

The League of Nations was administered by three main bodies. The Assembly, composed of representatives from all member countries, met annually and discussed the priorities and budget of

the organization. The Council was composed of four permanent members (Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan) and several non-permanent members who were elected by the permanent members every three years. The Secretariat, led by a Secretary-General, monitored many of the humanitarian agencies.

Political Success

The League of Nations was successful in preventing several small wars. The League negotiated settlements to territorial disputes between Sweden and Finland, Poland and Lithuania, and Greece and Bulgaria. It also successfully administered the former colonies of Germany and the Ottoman Empire, including Syria, Nauru and Togoland, until they were ready for independence.

Humanitarian Success

The League of Nations was one of the world's first humanitarian organizations. The League created and directed several agencies that were meant to improve the living conditions of the world's people. The League:

- aided refugees
- tried to end slavery and the drug trade
- set standards on working conditions
- constructed better transportation and communications networks
- gave financial assistance and advice to some member countries
- administered the Permanent Court



OVERWEIGHTED.
President Wilson: "Here's your olive branch. Now get busy."
Dove of peace: "Of course I want to please everybody; but isn't this a bit thick?"
Source: K. A. Punch Cartoon, March 1919.

of International Justice (precursor to today's International Court of Justice)

- tried to prevent malnutrition and diseases such as leprosy and malaria (precursor to today's World Health Organization)
- promoted culture preservation and scientific advancement (precursor to today's UNESCO).

Political Failures

The League of Nations was unable to enforce many of its own regulations because it did not have a military. The League did not stop several of the most significant events that led to World War II. Examples of League of Nations' failures include:

- the 1935 invasion of Ethiopia by Italy
 - the annexation of the Sudetenland and Austria by Germany
 - the invasion of Manchuria (the northeastern Chinese province) by Japan in 1932
- The Axis countries (Germany, Italy, and Japan) withdrew from the League because they refused to comply with the League's order to not militarize.

The End

The members of the League of Nations knew that many changes within the organization had to occur after World War II. So, the League was disbanded on April 20, 1946, having handed over all of its assets to the United Nations, and having granted the new UN Secretariat full control of its library and archives.

An improved international organization, the United Nations, was carefully discussed and formed, based on many of the political and social goals of the League of Nations.

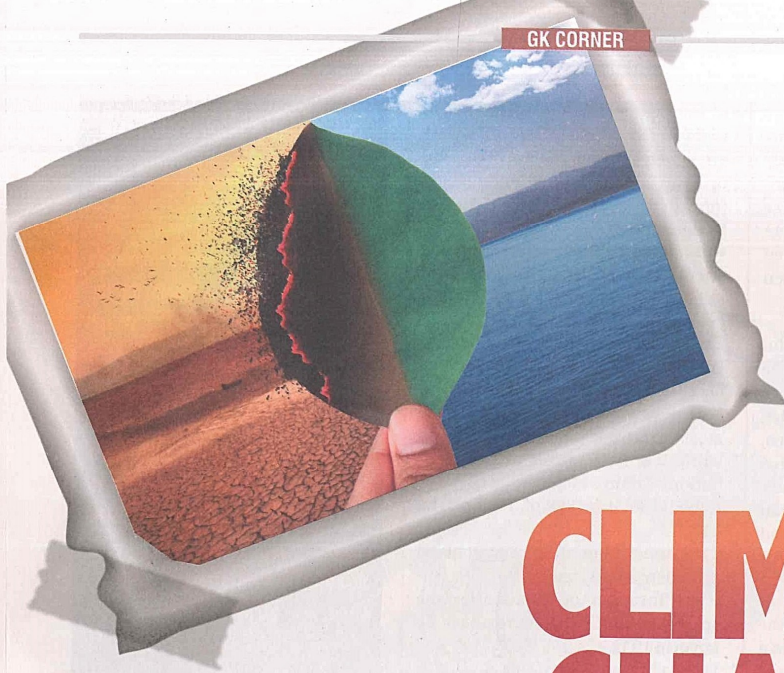
Lessons Learned

The League of Nations had the diplomatic, compassionate goal of generating permanent international stability, but the organization was unable to avert conflicts which would ultimately change human history. Thankfully, the world's leaders realized the League's shortcomings and reinforced its objectives in the modern-day successful United Nations. □

The United States and the League of Nations

US President Woodrow Wilson enunciated the Fourteen Points in January 1918. The Fourteen Points laid out a comprehensive vision for the transformation of world politics. Wilson believed that affairs between nations should be conducted in the open, on the basis of sovereignty, self-determination (the idea that all nations have the right to choose their own political identity without external interference), and the disavowal of military force to settle disputes. Wilson's vision for the postwar world was hugely influential in the founding of the League of Nations.

President Wilson's intense lobbying efforts on behalf of US membership in the League of Nations met with firm opposition from isolationist members of Congress, particularly Republican Senators William Borah and Henry Cabot Lodge. They objected most vociferously to Article X of the League's Covenant, which required all members of the League to assist any member threatened by external aggression. In effect, Article X would commit the United States to defending any member of the League in the event of an attack. Isolationists in Congress were opposed to any further US involvement in international conflicts and viewed Article X as a direct violation of US sovereignty. As a result, the Senate refused to ratify the treaty, and the United States never became a member of the League of Nations.



Stark Warnings about

CLIMATE CHANGE

Glimpses into IPCC report to be released next year

Magazine Desk

Searing, unrelenting heat scorches large swathes of the Earth, killing millions who have no means to escape. Shade is useless, and shallow bodies of water are warmer than the blood coursing through people's veins.

This is a scene from a new sci-fi novel, but the suffocating horror it describes may be closer to science than fiction, according to a draft UN report that warns of dire consequences for billions if global warming continues unchecked.

Earlier climate models suggested it would take nearly another century of unabated carbon pollution to spawn heatwaves exceeding the absolute limit of human tolerance. But updated projections warn of unprecedented killer heatwaves on the near horizon, according to a 4,000-page Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, seen by a French news agency, before its scheduled release in February 2022.

The chilling report by the UN's climate science advisory panel paints a grim — and deadly — picture for a warming planet.

If the world warms by 1.5 degrees Celsius — 0.4 degrees above today's level — 14 percent of the population will be exposed to severe heatwaves at least once every five years, "a significant increase in heatwave magnitude," the report says.

Going up half a degree would add another 1.7 billion people.

Worst hit will be burgeoning megacities in the developing world that generate additional heat of their own, from Karachi to Kinshasa, Manila to Mumbai, Lagos to Manaus. It's not just thermometer readings that make a difference — heat becomes more deadly when combined with high humidity.

It is easier, in other words, to survive a high temperature day if the air is bone-dry than it is to survive a lower temperature day with very high humidity.

That steam-bath mix has its own yardstick, known as wet-bulb temperature.

Experts say that healthy human adults cannot survive if wet-bulb temperatures (TW) exceed 35 degrees Celsius, even in the shade with an unlimited supply of drinking

water.

"When wet-bulb temperatures are extremely high, there is so much moisture in the air that sweating becomes ineffective at removing the body's excess heat," said Colin Raymond, lead author of a recent study on heatwaves in the Gulf. "At some point, perhaps after six or more hours, this will lead to organ failure and death in the absence of access to artificial cooling."

Heat stroke, heart attacks

We've already seen the impact of deadly, humid heat at far lower thresholds, especially among the elderly and infirm.

Two heatwaves in India and Pakistan that hit 30 degrees Celsius TW in 2015 left more than 4,000 people dead.

And the 2003 heatwave that killed more than 50,000 people in western Europe registered wet-bulb temperatures only in the high 20s.

Blistering heatwaves across the northern hemisphere in 2019 — the second warmest year on record for the planet — also caused a large number of excess deaths, but wet-bulb data is still lacking.

Research from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) reports just over 300,000 heat-related deaths worldwide from all causes in 2019.

Some 37 percent of heat-related deaths — just over 100,000 — can be blamed on global warming, according to researchers led by Antonio Gasparrini at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

In half a dozen countries — Brazil, Peru, Colombia, the Philippines, Kuwait and Guatemala — the percentage was 60 percent or more.

Most of these deaths were probably caused by heat stroke, heart attacks and dehydration from heavy sweating, and many could likely have been prevented.

Cities at risk

Dangerous spikes above 27 degrees Celsius TW have already more than doubled since 1979, according to Raymond's findings.

His study predicts wet-bulb temperatures will "regularly exceed" 35 degrees Celsius TW at some locations in the next several decades if the planet warms 2.5 degrees above preindustrial levels.

Human activity has driven global temperatures up 1.1 degrees Celsius so far.

The 2015 Paris Agreement calls for capping the increase at "well below" two degrees Celsius, and 1.5 degrees if possible.

Even if those targets are met, hundreds of millions of city dwellers in sub-Saharan Africa, as well as South and Southeast Asia, will likely be afflicted by at least 30 deadly heat days every year by 2080, the IPCC report says. ■

World Bank Group

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN 2021-2025

1. The challenge

GHG
reductions
are urgently
needed



8X

more natural disasters affected the poorest countries in the last decade than in the 1980s

"Tackling the climate crisis while meeting urgent development needs is the fundamental challenge of our time"

World Bank Group CCAP



Trillions of US dollars required in developing countries every year through 2030 to build infrastructure



800 million people worldwide still lack electricity



Climate change and the degradation of ecosystems together will push the planet closer to irreversible tipping points



Adaptation & resilience are critical for the POOREST & most vulnerable countries

World Bank Group

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN 2021-2025

2. The plan

ALIGN CLIMATE & DEVELOPMENT

NEW DIAGNOSTICS

Country Climate & Development Reports supporting climate NDCs, LTS and development plans

Align with Paris Agreement Goals

July 1, 2023 July 1, 2025

World Bank 100% WBG-wide 100% from 85%

WBG Climate finance = 35% of overall flows, half for adaptation (WB)

PRIORITIZE KEY SYSTEMS TRANSITIONS

5 KEY SYSTEMS
that generate 90% of GHG emissions and face significant adaptation challenges



FINANCING TO SUPPORT THE TRANSITION



Help CLIENT COUNTRIES boost public domestic RESOURCES

INCREASE MOBILIZATION of domestic and private capital
Support global efforts to raise and deploy concessional finance

The Treaty of Versailles

An Overview

Ghufran Wakeel

The Treaty of Versailles, signed in June 1919 at the Palace of Versailles in Paris at the end of World War I, codified peace terms between the victorious Allies and Germany. The Treaty of Versailles held Germany responsible for starting the war and imposed harsh penalties in terms of loss of territory, massive reparations payments and demilitarization. Far from the "peace without victory" that US President Woodrow Wilson had outlined in his famous Fourteen Points in early 1918, the Treaty of Versailles humiliated Germany while failing to resolve the underlying issues that had led to war in the first place. Economic distress and resentment of the treaty within Germany helped fuel the ultra-nationalist sentiment that led to the rise of Adolf Hitler and his Nazi Party, as well as the coming of a World War II, just two decades later.

Signed on June 28, 1919, as an end to the First World War, the Treaty of Versailles was supposed to ensure a lasting peace by punishing Germany and setting up a League of Nations to solve diplomatic problems. Instead, it left a legacy of political and geographical difficulties that have often been blamed, sometimes solely, for starting the Second World War.

Background

World War I had been fought for four years when, on November 11, 1918, Germany and the Allies signed an armistice. The Allies soon gathered to discuss the peace treaty they would sign, but Germany and Austria-Hungary weren't invited; instead, they were allowed only to present a response to the treaty, a response that was largely ignored. Instead, terms were drawn up mainly by the so-called Big Three: British Prime Minister Lloyd George, French Prime Minister Frances Clemenceau, and US President Woodrow Wilson.

The Big Three

Each government represented by the men in the the Big Three had different desires:

Woodrow Wilson wanted a "fair and lasting peace" and had written a plan — the Fourteen Points — to achieve this. He wanted the armed forces of all nations reduced, not just the losers, and a League of Nations created to ensure peace.

Frances Clemenceau wanted Germany to pay dearly for the war, including being stripped of land, industry and its armed forces. He also wanted heavy reparations.

Lloyd George was affected by public opinion in Britain, which agreed with Clemenceau, though he personally agreed with Wilson.

The result was a treaty that tried to compromise, and many of the details were passed down to uncoordinated subcommittees to work out, who thought they were drafting a starting point rather than the final wording. It was an almost impossible task. They were asking for the ability to pay off loans and debts with German cash and goods but also to restore the pan-European economy. The treaty needed to state territorial demands—many of which were included in secret treaties—but also to allow self-determination and deal with growing nationalism. It also needed to remove the German threat but not humiliate the nation and breed a generation intent on revenge—all while mollifying voters.

Selected Terms of the Treaty of Versailles

Here are some of the terms of the Versailles Treaty, in several main categories.

Territory

➤ Alsace-Lorraine, captured by Germany in 1870 and the war aim of the attacking French forces in 1914, was returned to France.

➤ The Saar, an important German coalfield, was to be given to France for 15 years, after which a plebiscite would decide ownership.

➤ Poland became an independent country with a "route to the sea," a corridor of land, cutting Germany in two.

➤ Danzig, a major port in East Prussia (Germany) was to be under international rule.

➤ All German and Turkish colonies were taken away and put under Allied control.

➤ Finland, Lithuania, Latvia, and Czechoslovakia were made independent.

➤ Austria-Hungary was split up, and Yugoslavia was created.

Arms

➤ The left bank of the Rhine was to be occupied by Allied forces and the right bank demilitarized.

➤ The German army was cut to 100,000 men.

➤ Wartime weapons were to be scrapped.

➤ The German Navy was cut to 36 ships and no submarines.

➤ Germany was banned from having an Air Force.

➤ An Anschluss (union) between Germany and Austria was banned.

Reparations and Guilt

➤ In the "war guilt" clause, Germany has to accept total blame for the war.

➤ Germany had to pay £6,600 million in compensation.

The League of Nations

A League of Nations was to be created to prevent further

world conflict.

Results

Germany lost 13 percent of its land, 12 percent of its people, 48 percent of its iron resources, 15 percent of its agricultural production, and 10 percent of its coal. Perhaps understandably, German public opinion soon swung against this diktat (dictated peace), while the Germans who signed it were called the "November Criminals." Britain and France felt the treaty was fair—they actually wanted harsher terms imposed on the Germans—but the United States refused to ratify it because it didn't want to be part of the League of Nations.

Other results include:

➤ The map of Europe was redrawn with consequences which, especially in the Balkans, remain to the modern day.

➤ Numerous countries were left with large minority groups: There were three and a half million Germans in Czechoslovakia alone.

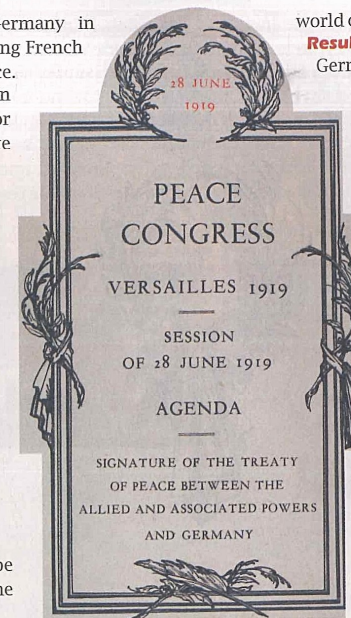
➤ The League of Nations was fatally weakened without the United States and its army to enforce decisions.

➤ Many Germans felt unfairly treated. After all, they had just signed an armistice, not a unilateral surrender, and the Allies hadn't occupied deeply into Germany.

Modern Thoughts

Modern historians sometimes conclude that the treaty was more lenient than might have been expected and not really unfair. They argue that, although the treaty didn't stop another war, this was more due to massive fault lines in Europe that WWI failed to solve, and they argue that the treaty would have worked had the Allied nations enforced

GK CORNER



Woodrow Wilson's 14 Points

The Fourteen Points

In a speech to Congress in January 1918, Wilson laid out his idealistic vision for the post-war world. In addition to specific territorial settlements based on an Entente victory, Wilson's so-called Fourteen Points emphasized the need for national self-determination for Europe's different ethnic populations. Wilson also proposed the founding of a "general association of nations" that would mediate international disputes and foster cooperation between different nations in the hopes of preventing war on such a large scale in the future. This organization eventually became known as the League of

Nations.

Wilson's Fourteen Points are summarized below:

1. Diplomacy should be public, with no secret treaties.
2. All nations should enjoy free navigation of the seas.
3. Free trade should exist among all nations, putting an end to economic barriers between countries.
4. All countries should reduce arms in the name of public safety.
5. Fair and impartial rulings in colonial claims.
6. Restore Russian territories and freedom.
7. Belgium should be restored to independence.

8. Alsace-Lorraine should be returned to France and France should be fully liberated.

9. Italy's frontiers should be drawn along clearly recognizable lines of nationality.

10. People living in Austria-Hungary should be granted self-determination.

11. The Balkan states should also be guaranteed self-determination and independence.

12. Turks and those under Turkish rule should be granted self-determination.

13. An independent Poland should be created.

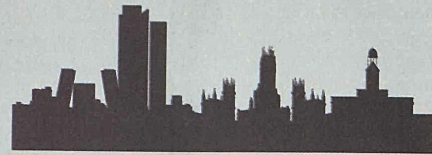
14. A general association of nations must be formed to mediate international disputes.

it, instead of falling out and being played off one another. This remains a controversial view. You rarely find a modern historian agreeing that the Treaty solely caused World War II, although clearly, it failed in its aim to prevent another major war.

What is certain is that Adolf Hitler was able to use the treaty perfectly to rally support behind him: appealing to the soldiers who felt conned and wielding the anger at the

November Criminals to damn other socialists, promise to overcome Versailles, and make headway in doing so. However, supporters of Versailles like to look at the peace treaty Germany imposed on Soviet Russia, which took vast areas of land, population, and wealth, and point out that country was no less keen to grab things. Whether one wrong justifies another is, of course, down to the perspective of the reader. ■

Treaty of Versailles - The Impact



What effect did the Treaty of Versailles itself have on Germany's condition following WW1?

POLITICS

The nature of the treaty caused anger and a loss of pride:

1. War Guilt
2. Loss of land
3. Military restrictions



Germany lost 13% of its land in the treaty, including 12% of its population

The army was restricted to **100,000** men with other restrictions also taking effect:



The newly formed socialist government was blamed - and branded the

NOVEMBER CRIMINALS

These grievances caused political allegiances to be polarized following the war:

some supported the **left wing** (USPD)

Some supported the **right wing** (Fatherland Party)

Both attempted revolutions:
Jan 1919 **Spartacist Uprising**
Mar 1920 **Kapp Putsch**

ECONOMIC & SOCIAL



Meat consumption dropped 88% from pre-war levels

Agricultural production dropped 16%



The Deutsche Mark lost 75% of its value during WW1. It was after the war, however, when hyperinflation began

Cost of a loaf of bread: Sept 1922 - 163 D Marks
Nov 1923 - 200,000,000,000 D Marks

1916

1918

= 50,000 deaths to starvation or hypothermia



Mock Interviews 2020

Wishing them Best of Luck

June-July '21

WORLD IN FOCUS

NATIONAL



M. Usman Butt

Sea-level rise and implications for Pakistan

The frequency of tropical cyclones' formation in the Arabian sea has increased 10 times during the last 20 years due to continuous rise in the sea-surface temperature and in the years to come the occurrence of more intense tropical cyclones is feared due to increase in the sea temperature. In addition to more frequent formation of intense tropical cyclones, rise in seawater temperature is resulting in sea-level rise which can seriously affect coastal ecosystems, destruction of agricultural lands along the coastal belt and may result in mass migration due to loss of livelihood. Pakistan meteorological scientists need to use data from sea-level observations and future projections for applications to coastal climate impact research and risk assessment. Pakistan has world's highest mountain ranges of Himalayas, Karakoram and Hindukush hosting third largest ice mass in the form of glaciers after the polar regions and present a unique mountain ecosystem which is exposed to various climatic and non-climatic challenges. The central parts have vast rangeland and desert ecosystems with some indifferent characteristics. More than 1000km long Sindh-Makran coast offers a diverse coastal ecosystem, which however is highly vulnerable to the coastal disasters triggered by global warming and climate change. The Indus Delta, 6th largest in the world and the 7th most vulnerable, is very important entity of Pakistan coastal ecosystem which is directly affected by the sea level rise including sea water intrusion, brackish ground water neither suitable for drinking nor agriculture, storm surges, reduced environmental flows and deforestation of mangroves.

June 16: The government promoted five officers of Pakistan Air Force (PAF) to the rank of Air Vice Marshal.
June 16: Prime Minister Imran Khan (PMIK) inaugurated the newly established "Eagle Squad" of Islamabad Police comprising 100 motorcycle-bound officers.
June 16: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) allowed banks to charge a minimal fee on high-value transactions of Interbank Fund Transfer (IBFT).
June 16: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) launched e-courses on 'Protection against Sexual Harassment in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)' and 'Policy for Students with Disabilities in HEIs'.
June 16: Coca-Cola Beverages Pakistan Ltd announced to invest \$50 million in its greenfield project in Haripur district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).
June 17: The Cabinet Committee on Energy (CCoE) approved the merger of two power sector agencies Alternative Energy Development Board (AEDB) and Private Power & Infrastructure Board (PPIB).
June 17: Renowned writer and journalist Sheen Farrukh passed away at 83.
June 18: The KP government unveiled a tax-free budget for the next fiscal year 2021-22 with a total outlay of Rs1.118 trillion.
June 18: The Balochistan budget for the next fiscal year with a total outlay of Rs584.083 billion was presented in the provincial assembly.
June 18: Punjab became the first province to pass the 'Apprenticeship Act 2021' to provide skilled youth with better economic opportunities to the industry according to its specifications.
June 19: Atif Bokhari resigned from the chairmanship of the Board of Investment (BOI).
June 19: World Bank (WB) approved loan amounting to 442 million dollars for improvement in water supply and sewerage system in Punjab.
June 19: FM Qureshi called on the President of the Republic of Kosovo Dr. Vjosa Osmani and exchanged views on issues of regional and international importance.
June 20: The levy of super tax was permanently imposed on banking companies as it was expiring in the tax year 2021.
June 21: The federal government notified Tariq Malik as Chairman National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra) for three years.
June 21: Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP) leader and former

94.2% People in IIOJK Suffering from Anxiety

A new study conducted by Kashmir doctors at JLNH hospital in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) has raised an alarm as 94.2% of its respondents were found to be suffering from anxiety. Titled 'Severity of depression, anxiety, and stress among the people of Kashmir, India during Covid-19: An observation from telepsychiatry services', the 2021 study has been published in Global Psychiatry, an internationally acclaimed medical journal. A total of 293 people in the age bracket of 31-59 years were interviewed during the teleconsultation service. "The majority of participants had severe anxiety (94.2%), moderate depression (42.7%), and 48.5% were experiencing moderate to severe stress," the study revealed. The study stated that lockdown is routinely compounded by communications blackouts in the valley and this makes it even scarier and unsafe. Dr Sheikh Shuib, Consultant Psychiatrist at JLNH Hospital, Rainawari, who is a co-author of the study, said the Covid-19 pandemic along with the lockdown has presented some exceptional and complex challenges in delivering mental health services in the valley. Another co-author and community medicine specialist, Dr Sheikh Mohammad Saleem said telehealth could increase the delivery of mental health services and may decrease the treatment gap for mental disorders. "It can be a feasible approach. With minimum utilization of existing resources, the accessibility and affordability of mental health interventions can help the patients. It also decreases the burden on healthcare professionals delivering services in pandemics, and the risk of transmission of the disease is nullified," Dr Saleem said.

senator Usman Khan Kakar passed away.

June 21: The Council of Common Interest (CCI) unanimously approved the National Electricity Policy 2021.

June 21: Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa held talks with Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev and Col Gen Hasanov Zakir Oglu, Minister for Defence.

June 21: The government announced the availability of \$1.5 billion Saudi oil facility per annum.

June 22: The government appointed Noor Ahmed the executive director of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for a term of four years starting from July 1, 2021.

June 23: COAS Gen Bajwa acknowledged the Turkish engagements with Pakistan especially the ongoing efforts for continuing the positivity for peace in the region.

June 23: PMIK presided over a special meeting of recently established National Intelligence Coordination Committee (NICC) at Inter-Services Intelligence headquarters.

June 24: PIT's Balochistan chief and provincial Education Minister Yar Mohammad Rind resigned.

June 24: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) dismissed pleas filed by former prime minister Nawaz Sharif against the imprisonment sentences announced in the Al Aziz Steel Mills and Avenfield apartments references.

June 24: COAS Gen Bajwa addressed students and faculty members of the Command and Staff College of Germany. He said that the future of enduring peace and stability in the world hinges on the resolving long-pending issues within the region.

June 24: Multan Sultans defeated Peshawar Zalmi to win their maiden Pakistan Super League (PSL) title.

June 24: The Ministry of National Health Services Regulation and Coordination, Ministry of Communication and Pakistan Post, released a stamp that marks the 100th anniversary of

the discovery of insulin.

June 24: The HEC and the United States Educational Foundation in Pakistan (USEFP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to support 125 Pakistanis to pursue PhD studies in the United States, 25 per year for five years.

June 25: Despite implementing 26 out of 27 action plans, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) placed six new points actions plan for finding out deficiencies in Mutual Evaluation Report (MER), binding Islamabad to comply with these two plans simultaneously in order to come out from the grey list.

June 26: Former caretaker prime minister Justice (R) Mir Hazar Khan Khoso passed away.

June 27: Legendary television and stage actor Begum Khursheed Shahid died. She was over 95.

June 28: The Sindh High Court (SHC) ordered to ban the video-sharing app TikTok across Pakistan.

June 28: The Benazir Income Support Programme Board in its 50th meeting held here under the Ehsaas framework approved inclusion of all transgenders in Ehsaas Kafalat programme.

June 28: Famous Pakistani folk singer Allah Ditta Loonay Wala passed away.

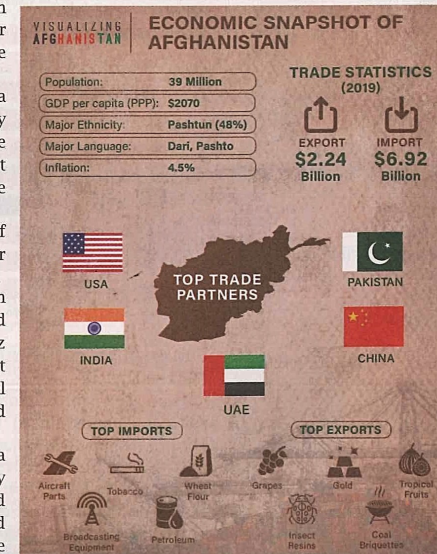
June 28: Pakistan and the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC), a subsidiary of the Islamic Development Bank, signed a \$4.5 billion new framework agreement to finance oil, LNG and fertiliser imports over the next 3 years.

June 29: In a historic first, Ogilvy Pakistan won two Grand Prixes for

Telenor Pakistan at this year's Cannes Lions Festival of Creativity.

June 29: The National Assembly passed the Federal Budget with a majority vote.

The Federal Budget, having a total outlay of Rs8.487 trillion, will envisage 10 percent increase in salaries of government



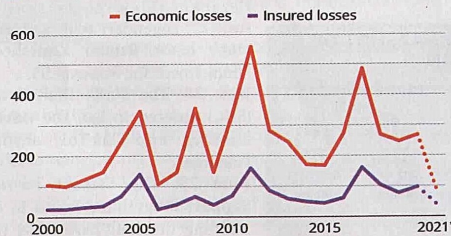
employees and pensioners while the minimum wage has been fixed at Rs20,000 per month. The annual Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) has been increased by 40 percent from Rs630 billion to Rs900 billion while Rs100 billion have been earmarked for construction of hydro power projects. The growth rate of 4.6 percent has been projected for the next fiscal year with tax collection target of Rs5,829 billion. The budget provides zero rating to export of IT services while tax relief has been given for locally manufactured cars upto 1000 CC with tax exemptions and concessions given to encouraging manufacturing of electric vehicles in the country. Allocations for Ehsaas Programme have been enhanced from Rs210 billion to Rs260 billion while Rs10 billion for Kamyab Jawan Programme for the financial year 2021-22. The government has also allocated 1.1 billion dollars for procurement of anti-Covid-19 vaccine.

June 29: COAS Gen Bajwa had a video call with Chairman European Union Military Committee (EUMC) General Claudio Graziano.

June 29: The IHC declared the appointment notifications of

The Cost Of 21st Century Natural Disasters

Cost of natural disaster losses worldwide from 2000 to 2021 (in billion U.S. dollars)



National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) Chairman Board of Directors (BoD) Muhammad Zubyr Soomro and President Arif Usmani illegal.

June 29: The PML-N-led AJK government presented a tax-free budget for fiscal year 2021-22.

June 29: The World Bank's board of executive directors approved \$800 million in financing to Pakistan for reform policy programmes in energy and social sectors.

June 30: Maulana Abdur Razzaq Iskandar, eminent religious scholar and head of the Wifaqul Madaris Al-Arabia Pakistan, passed away. He was 86.

June 30: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) surpassed its revised annual collection target of Rs4,691 billion and fetched net provisional collection of Rs4,725 billion during the outgoing financial year 2020-21 ending on June 30, 2021.

June 30: In his address to the parliament, PMIK maintained that there would be no compromise on the country's sovereignty giving a categorical message that Pakistan could be a partner with the United States in peace and but could never be a partner in conflicts.

June 30: President Dr Arif Alvi inaugurated the one megawatt

Solar PV (photovoltaic) at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, making it among one of the few presidencies in the world fully powered by green energy.

July 01: The FBR changed the definition of a resident of Pakistan and declared that any individual shall be required to be in Pakistan for a period in aggregate to 183 days or more, in a tax year to become a resident.

July 01: Renowned TV actor Anwar Iqbal passed away.

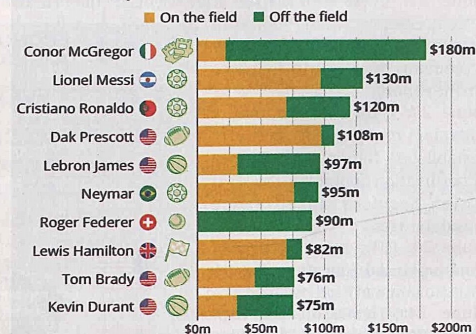
July 01: The closed-door meeting of the Parliamentary Committee on National Security was held at the National Assembly that lasted for over eight hours. Director General ISI Lt. Gen. Faiz Hameed, briefed the parliamentarians for over two hours with focus on Afghanistan and regional security scenario. COAS Gen Bajwa, National Security Adviser Dr Moeed Yousuf and the four chief ministers also attended the meeting.

July 01: President Dr Arif Alvi appointed new Managing Body of Pakistan Red Crescent Society.

July 01: Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, visited the 3rd Main Jet Base in Konya,

The World's Highest-Paid Athletes

Income of the highest-paid athletes in the world between May 1, 2020 and May 1, 2021



Turkey, to review the multi-national air exercise "Anatolian Eagle-2021".

July 01: The Balochistan government set up a two-member judicial commission to investigate the death of former senator Usman Khan Kakar.

July 01: The United States added Pakistan and Turkey to its Child Soldiers Prevention Act (CSPA) list, a designation that could lead to strict sanctions on military assistance and listed countries' participation in peacekeeping programmes.

July 02: Deputy Governor of the SBP Sima Kamil unveiled a commemorative stamp to mark the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the bank's museum.

July 02: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced central contracts for elite 20 players.

July 03: Karachi police chief Imran Yaqoob Minhas inaugurated an Urban Flooding Rescue Unit that has been established by the Security Division of the Sindh Police.

What is lightning, and how does it strike?

Lightning is a very rapid — and massive — discharge of electricity in the atmosphere, some of which is directed towards the Earth's surface. These discharges are generated in giant moisture-bearing clouds that are 10-12 km tall. The base of these clouds typically lies within 1-2 km of the Earth's surface, while their top is 12-13 km away. Temperatures towards the top of these clouds are in the range of minus 35 to minus 45 degrees Celsius.

As water vapour moves upward in the cloud, the falling temperature causes it to condense. Heat is generated in the process, which pushes the molecules of water further up. As they move to temperatures below zero degrees Celsius, the water droplets change into small ice crystals. They continue to move up, gathering mass — until they are so heavy that they start to fall to Earth.

This leads to a system in which, simultaneously, smaller ice crystals are moving up and bigger crystals are coming down.

Collisions follow, and trigger the release of electrons — a process that is very similar to the generation of sparks of electricity. As the moving free electrons cause more collisions and more electrons, a chain reaction ensues.

This process results in a situation in which the top layer of the cloud gets positively charged, while the middle layer is negatively charged. The electrical potential difference between the two layers is huge — of the order of a billion to 10 billion volts. In very little time, a massive current, of the order of 100,000 to a million amperes, starts to flow between the layers.

An enormous amount of heat is produced, and this leads to the heating of the air column between the two layers of the cloud. This heat gives the air column a reddish appearance during lightning. As the heated air column expands, it produces shock waves that result in thunder.

While the Earth is a good conductor of electricity, it is electrically neutral. However, in comparison to the middle layer of the cloud, it becomes positively charged. As a result, about 15%-20% of the current gets directed towards the Earth as well. It is this flow of current that results in damage to life and property on Earth.

There is a greater probability of lightning striking tall objects such as trees, towers or buildings. Once it is about 80-100 m from the surface, lightning tends to change course towards these taller objects. This happens because air is a poor conductor of electricity, and electrons that are travelling through air seek both a better conductor and the shortest route to the relatively positively charged Earth's surface.

July 03: The inaugural round of Pakistan-Uzbekistan Bilateral Political Consultations was held.

July 03: US Embassy launched the first-ever Academy of Women Entrepreneurs (AWE) program in Pakistan.

July 04: PMIK called up Iranian President-elect Sayyid Ebrahim Raisi and congratulated him on his victory in the presidential elections, and emphasized the need for continuing to facilitate an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned inclusive political settlement.

July 05: Pakistan was ranked third in The Economist's Global Normalcy Index, out of 50 countries.

July 05: COAS Gen Bajwa and Commander Turkish Land Forces General Umit Dundar, during a meeting at GHQ, agreed to further optimise military-to-military ties particularly in training and counter-terrorism domain.

July 05: President Dr Arif Alvi conferred the Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) award on Commander of Turkish Land Forces General Umit Dundar.

July 05: Veteran journalist, short story writer and progressive intellectual Masood Ashar passed away. He was 90.

July 06: PMIK urged his government ministers, governors, chief ministers and other high-ups to avoid protocol and unnecessary security to "minimise expenditure and end the public inconvenience".

July 06: The 7th National Workshop on Balochistan was held at GHQ.

July 06: PMIK addressed the CPC and World Political Parties Summit: for the People's Well-being; the responsibility of Political Parties.

July 06: Pakistan launched \$1 billion international bond.

July 06: Justice Muhammad Ameer Bhatti took oath as the 51st chief justice of Lahore High Court (LHC).

July 06: Federal Education Minister Shafqat Mahmood launched e-portal and smartphone application of the Inter-

Board Committee of Chairmen (IBCC) for equivalence certificates.

July 07: President Arif Alvi appointed Zahoor Ahmed Agha the new governor of Balochistan after the former governor Amanullah Khan Yasinzai tendered his resignation.

July 07: PMIK appointed Shahzain Bugti his special assistant on reconciliation and harmony in Balochistan.

July 08: The Afghan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA) was extended for six months.

July 08: The Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations, in collaboration with the Governments of Finland and Costa Rica, World Bank, UNDESA and Ehsaas, hosted a high-level side event titled "An Inflection Point on Social Protection," in New York.

July 08: PMIK launched production of electric motorcycles in the country.

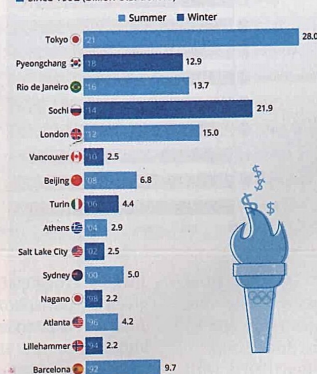
July 08: The IHC restored the president and the chairman of NBP to their posts.

July 08: A huge statue of world's renowned social worker Abdul Sattar Edhi, who spent his entire life serving the humanity, was installed at the famous Hockey Chowk in Quetta.

July 09: The first Punjabi translation of holy Quran was launched to facilitate millions of the Punjabi-speaking

The Massive Costs Behind The Olympic Games

Cost of hosting the Olympic Games since 1992 (billion U.S. dollars)



Muslims across the world.

July 09: US Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken and FM Qureshi spoke to underscore their desire for a stable and sustainable relationship between the two countries.

July 09: Syed Zahoor Ahmed Agha took oath as the 22nd governor of Balochistan.

July 10: Shahida Khanum and Abida Tanveer were elected as president and secretary, respectively, of the Pakistan Women Athletics Association for a term of four years.

July 10: England beat Pakistan in the second one-day international to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in a three-match series.

July 10: Director General Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Major General Babar Iftikhar, said Pakistan was only a facilitator and not a guarantor in the Afghan peace process.

July 10: The European Union and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (Unicef) signed an agreement to launch the 'Balochistan Education Support' (BES), a five-year education development programme for which the EU will provide 17.4 million euros.

July 11: The Cabinet Division and Islamabad police pulled additional security provided to federal ministers, leaders of different political parties and officials.

July 11: The federal cabinet approved a special allowance of 15 percent of the running basic pay for armed forces personnel of all ranks.

July 11: Shabbir Iqbal won the Engro 25th Chief of Naval Staff Open Golf Championship.

July 12: The federal government announced celebrations in the year 2021-22, starting from August 14 as 'The Year of Sports' on two counts — to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the country's independence and to mark the completion of 70th year of Pak-China Friendship.

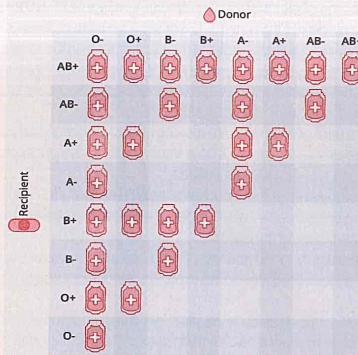
July 12: Saudi Arabia allowed Pakistanis inoculated with Chinese vaccine against the Covid-19 to enter the Kingdom.

July 12: Punjab Minister for Industries & Trade Mian Aslam Iqbal and Ambassador of Indonesia Adam M. Tugio inaugurated Indonesia-Pakistan business-to-business (B2B) online portal.

July 12: The Senate passed "The Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Bill, 2021" to define 'torture, custody and custodial deaths' inflicted by any person, police

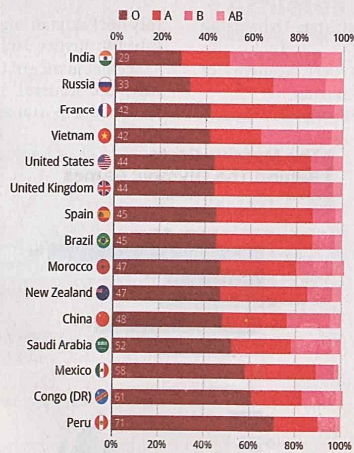
Who Can You Give Blood To?

Compatibility of blood types for blood donation



The Rarest and Most Common Blood Types Around The World

Blood type distribution in selected countries (in %)*



or law enforcement agency, under the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC).

July 13: Delivering his key note address virtually at the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, PMK proposed actions to effectively respond to the triple crisis unleashed by Covid-19 having accentuated the endemic inequalities existing within and amongst the nations.

July 13: The federal cabinet decided that after detailed review, security of former rulers and retired judges and bureaucrats would also be reduced gradually.

July 13: Naveed Alam, former hockey Olympian and a member of Pakistan's winning team in the 1994 World Cup, passed away.

July 13: The 14th edition of the South Asian Games (SAG) will be held in Pakistan's cities of Lahore, Sialkot, Faisalabad, Gujranwala and Islamabad in 2023.

July 13: PMK named Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) leader and Member National Assembly Moonis Elahi as federal minister for water resources.

July 13: Umer Hameed, a retired grade 22 officer of Secretariat Group, assumed responsibilities as the ECP secretary on contractual basis.

July 14: The University of Engineering and Technology (UET), Lahore, appointed Dr Saima Yasin its first female engineering professor in 100 years.

July 14: Former president and PML-N central leader Mamnoon Hussain passed away. He was 80.

July 15: Qatar announced a new immigration policy and allowed Pakistanis visa-on-arrival facility.

July 15: Provincial minister Mian Mehmood-ur-Rasheed was given the portfolio of Local Government.

July 15: Pakistan and Russia successfully concluded the talks and signed the Heads of Terms (HoT) and Shareholders Agreement (SHA) on the country's most strategic project of 1,100-kilometer Pakistan Stream Gas Pipeline (PSGP) from Karachi to Kasur.

July 15: Addressing a joint press conference with Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev in Tashkent, PMK said with Pakistan and Uzbekistan sharing the same objective of lifting their people out of poverty, increased and strong trade and economic relations would be mutually beneficial and a win-win for the two sides.

INTERNATIONAL

June 16: Lina Khan, a Pakistani-American, was sworn in as the head of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), becoming the youngest chairperson in the FTC's history.

June 16: Russian President Vladimir Putin and his US counterpart, Joe Biden held a summit meeting in Geneva during which both leaders agreed for their ambassadors to resume their posts in a gesture of diplomatic healing.

June 16: Britain's Karim Khan was sworn in as the new prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.

June 17: Former Zambian president Kenneth Kaunda, a hero of the struggle against white rule in southern Africa, died aged 97.

June 17: The first astronauts arrived at China's new space station, in the country's longest crewed mission to date.

June 17: The Democratic-led House, with the backing of President Joe Biden, passed legislation to repeal the 2002 authorisation for use of military force in Iraq.

June 18: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau nominated Justice Mahmud Jamal as the next member of the Supreme Court of Canada — the first non-white judge to take the seat.

June 18: A fresh report from the UN refugee agency was released according to which despite the coronavirus pandemic, the number of people fleeing war and persecution continued rising last year, with global displacement climbing to over 82 million — double the figure a decade ago.

June 18: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was sworn in for a second term as head of the world body.

June 18: India's track legend Milkha Singh, a four-time Asian Games gold medalist who was dubbed the 'Flying Sikh', died aged 91.

June 19: Ebrahim Raisi was elected president of Iran with about 62 percent of the vote.

June 20: The six-time world champion, Marc Marquez won the German MotoGP.

June 20: A French and an American astronaut completed the installation of new solar panels to boost power supplies to the International Space Station (ISS).

June 21: Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan scored a decisive victory in snap parliamentary elections.

June 21: Sweden's government was toppled after Stefan Lofven became the country's first prime minister to lose a no-confidence vote.

June 21: New Zealand weightlifter Laurel Hubbard was selected as the first transgender Olympic athlete.



June 22: Turkmenistan's capital Ashgabat was declared the world's most expensive city for foreign workers in the 2021 Mercer survey.

June 22: Keshav Maharaj completed just the second hat-trick by a South African in Test history.

June 22: Financial assistance to the world's 83 weakest economies fell by 15 percent in 2020, to \$35 billion as a direct

result of the Covid-19 pandemic, according to UNCTAD's World Investment Report 2021.

June 22: A report by the World Food Programme (WFP) warned that the threat of famine had increased dramatically over the past two years from 27 million in 2019 to 41 million this year.

June 22: Spain pardoned nine jailed Catalan separatists behind a failed 2017 independence bid.

June 22: The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) announced to honour Jimmy Lai, the imprisoned founder of Hong Kong's Next Digital media company and Apple Daily newspaper, with the 2021 Gwen Ifill Press Freedom Award.

June 23: In a written address to the Asia and Pacific High-level Conference on Belt and Road Cooperation, Chinese President Xi Jinping said China is willing to work with all parties to build a closer "Belt and Road" partnership.



June 23: Indian officials met and held discussions with the Taliban representatives in Doha ahead of complete withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan.

June 23: New Zealand beat India in the inaugural World Test Championship final.

June 23: Technology entrepreneur John McAfee apparently hanged himself in his Spanish prison cell after a high court authorised his extradition to the United States.

June 23: Hong Kong's pro-democracy newspaper Apple Daily announced to print its final edition after authorities arrested staff and froze its assets using a sweeping new national security law.

June 24: The world's highest luxury hotel, Shanghai Tower - the second-tallest building in the world after Dubai's Burj Khalifa - boasting a restaurant on the 120th floor and 24-hour personal butler service, opened in Shanghai.

June 24: Former Philippine president Benigno "Noy" Aquino, the scion of one of Asia's most famous political families, died. He was 61.

June 24: India's prime minister Narendra Modi held a crucial meeting with pro-India politicians from Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K). No major decision was announced after the meeting and many Kashmiri leaders said they reiterated their demand that New Delhi should reverse its 2019 changes.

June 24: US President Joe Biden embraced a \$1.2 trillion bipartisan Senate deal to renew the nation's roads, bridges and highways and help stimulate the economy.

June 25: Former policeman Derek Chauvin was sentenced to 22 and a half years in jail for murdering African American George Floyd.

June 25: Bundestag, lower house of the German parliament, passed a law outlawing symbols of groups designated as terrorist organisations by the EU, including the Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas.

June 25: US President Joe Biden met Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and his former political foe, Abdullah Abdullah, to discuss Washington's support for Afghanistan.

June 26: UK Health Secretary Matt Hancock resigned, after revelations that he broke the government's own coronavirus restrictions during an affair with a close aide.

June 26: England cricket team clean-swept the three-match T20I series against Sri Lanka.

June 26: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan launched the start of construction on Istanbul Canal.

June 27: Max Verstappen cruised to victory in the Styrian Grand Prix.

June 27: Bangladesh scrapped at least 10 major coal-fired power plants as it seeks to scale up its power generation from renewable energy sources.

June 27: The World Bank Group announced its new Climate Change Action Plan that aims to deliver record levels of climate finance to developing countries, reduce emissions, strengthen adaptation, and align financial flows with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

June 27: Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi and Jordan's King Abdullah met in Baghdad during the

first visit by an Egyptian head of state to Iraq since Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait in 1990.

June 28: Nepal launched a digital visa system to replace its 45-year-old hand-written visa regime.

June 28: Ukraine and the United States launched joint naval exercises in the Black Sea.

June 28: Viktor Hovland became the first Norwegian to win a European Tour title.

June 28: Nelly Korda won the Women's PGA Championship to capture her first major title and become the first American since 2014 to seize the world number one ranking.

June 28: Ethiopia's federal government declared a 'unilateral ceasefire' in its war-torn Tigray region.

June 28: Canada, the second coldest country in the world, braced highest-ever temperature in its history with mercury touching 46.6 degrees Celsius (116 Fahrenheit).

June 28: UN Secretary General António Guterres urged India to end the use of pellets against children in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and stop associating children with the security forces in any way.

June 29: Israel's top diplomat Yair Lapid opened the Jewish state's first embassy in the Gulf during a trip to UAE.

June 30: Donald H. Rumsfeld, the secretary of defense for Presidents Gerald R. Ford and George W. Bush, who presided over America's Cold War strategies in the 1970s and, in the new world of terrorism decades later, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, died. He was 88.

June 30: China was certified as malaria-free by the WHO, following a 70-year effort to eradicate the disease.

July 01: Iran's supreme leader named former intelligence and security minister Gholamhossein Mohseni-Ejei as head of the country's judiciary,

replacing President-elect Ebrahim Raisi.

July 01: Addressing the centenary celebrations for the Chinese Communist Party, Chinese President Xi Jinping hailed China's "irreversible" course from humiliated colony to a great power and said the "era of China being bullied is gone forever," praising the party for uplifting incomes and restoring national pride.

July 01: The Second High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism was held at the UN headquarters in New York.

July 01: Turkey formally exited the Istanbul Convention, a treaty combatting femicide and domestic abuse.

July 02: Protesters toppled statues of Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II in the Canadian city of Winnipeg.

July 02: New Zealand topped the Henley Passport Index ranking, along with Germany. Both NZ and Germany have visa-free access or visa on arrival to 136 countries. Following them are five countries with the same score of 135 - Finland, Australia, Spain, Switzerland and Japan.

July 02: American forces vacated the Bagram Airbase - their main military base in Afghanistan.

July 02: England cruised to a series-clinching win over Sri Lanka in the second one-day international at the Oval.

July 03: Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi opened a strategic naval base on the Mediterranean Sea.

July 03: France's national financial prosecutors' office appointed a French judge to investigate a controversial 2016 multi-billion-dollar sale of Rafale fighter jets to India on "corruption" suspicions.

July 03: Lithuania declared a state of emergency due to an influx of migrants from neighbouring Belarus.

July 04: Chinese astronauts successfully performed the country's first tandem spacewalk, working for seven hours on the outside of the new Tiangong station in orbit around Earth.

July 04: At least 45 people were killed and dozens others were



injured when a Philippine military aircraft carrying troops crashed and burst into flames.

July 04: South Africa beat West Indies to claim a series-clinching victory in the final T20 International of their five-match contest.

July 05: Jeff Bezos handed over the job of Amazon chief executive to Andy Jassy.

July 05: In a video talk with Chinese President Xi Jinping, French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel discussed issues ranging from climate change and trade to human rights.

July 05: Russia's Oscar-winning film director Vladimir Menshov died aged 81.

July 06: Canada named Mary Simon as its first indigenous governor general - Queen Elizabeth II's official representative in the Commonwealth country.

July 06: Richard Donner, a prolific filmmaker who directed the first "Superman" movie, "The Goonies," and other

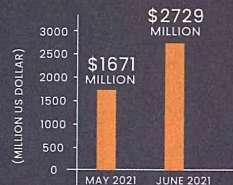
GK Tidbits

1. In 2018, Donald Trump met Putin in: **Helsinki**
2. US president Ronald Reagan and Russian President Mikhail Gorbachev met for the very first time in 1985 in: **Geneva**
3. The Soviet Union collapsed in: **1991**
4. Karim Khan, as ICC prosecutor, has replaced: **Fatou Bensouda**
5. The Chief Judge of the International Criminal Court is: **Piotr Hofmanski**
6. The Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson is: **Zhao Lijian**
7. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was established on: **June 15, 2001**
8. European Union's Special Envoy for Afghanistan is: **Tomas Niklasson**
9. The first foreign head of state visited by South African liberation icon Nelson Mandela on his release from prison in 1990 was: **Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia**
10. The proposed Gandhara Valley City project, the largest residential scheme of KP, will be built in: **Peshawar**
11. National Institute of Oceanography is located in: **Karachi**

12. The current administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is: **Bill Nelson**
13. World Refugee Day is observed in: **June 20**
14. The name of Joe Biden's family dog was: **Champ**
15. River Ravi is known in the Vedas as: **Iravati**
16. The Greeks called the River Ravi: **Hydraotes**
17. The Neolithic settlement of Mehrgarh is located on the Kachi plains of: **Balochistan**
18. The world's first planned city is: **Mehrgarh**
19. According to Sheikh Ahmed Zanjani's 'Tuhfatul Vasilin', Lahore was founded by: **Raja Parichit of the Pandavas**
20. The Pakistani sprinter who was known as 'The Flying Bird of Asia', was: **Abdul Khaliq**
21. The first Indo-Pakistan athletics meet was held in New Delhi in: **March 1956**
22. International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict is observed on: **19 June**
23. Antalya Diplomacy Forum was held in: **Turkey**
24. Azhakhel Dry Port is located in KP's district of: **Nowshera**
25. The Potlala Palace is a dzong fortress in the city

- of: **Lhasa**
26. World Music Day or Fête de la Musique is celebrated on: **21 June**
27. Great Barrier Reef is in: **Australia**
28. Daren Sammy Cricket Ground is located in: **St Lucia**
29. Inter-Services Intelligence headquarters is in: **Islamabad**
30. The final of the inaugural World Test Championship was played at: **Southampton**
31. World Food Safety Day is observed on: **07 June**
32. World Olympic Day or International Olympic Day is celebrated on: **June 23**
33. Frederick Grant Banting and Charles F. Best discovered insulin in: **1921**
34. United Nations (UN) International Day in Support of victims of torture is marked on: **June 26**
35. Naval exercise of Ukraine and the United States navies is named: **Sea Breeze**
36. Kiev is the capital of: **Ukraine**
37. World Bank's Country Director Pakistan is: **Najib Benhassine**
38. Israel has opened its first embassy in a UAE's city of: **Abu Dhabi**

EXPORTS CONTINUE UPWARD TRAJECTORY



SHOWING REMARKABLE
63.32% MONTH-ON-MONTH GROWTH

TRADE WITH NEIGHBOURS

	11MFY21			11MFY20		
	Exports	Imports	Difference	Exports	Imports	Difference
CHINA	1,831	11,454	(9,623)	1,535	8,255	(6,720)
AFGHANISTAN	895	163	732	826	119	707
INDIA	2.2	168	(165.8)	25	358	(333)
IRAN	0.261	0	0.261	0.055	0	0.055

blockbuster hits, died at age 91.

July 07: Warning of a "deepening divergence" between rich and poor, IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva called on the G20 to take urgent steps to keep developing nations from falling further behind in vaccine access and funding to repair their fortunes.

July 07: Ahmad Jibril, a leading Palestinian commander for decades, died aged 83.

July 07: Sweden's parliament voted to reinstate Social Democrat party leader Stefan Lofven as prime minister.

July 07: The huge container ship MV Ever Given, which blocked the Suez Canal for six days in March, finally steamed out of the waterway after Egypt and the vessel's Japanese owners signed a compensation deal.

July 07: Labour MP Naz Shah made a blistering speech in the British Parliament, asking the British House of Commons to consider the unbearable emotional harm to the feelings of billions of Muslims when bigots and racists defame, slander or abuse Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

July 07: Haiti President Jovenel Moise was assassinated and his wife wounded in an attack at their home.

July 07: Twelve Indian ministers resigned as part of a major reshuffle by Prime Minister Narendra Modi following a catastrophic spike in Covid-19 cases and ahead of important state elections.

July 07: Dilip Kumar, one of Bollywood's most accomplished and respected film stars, died aged 98.

July 08: Norwegian telecoms group Telenor announced to sell its subsidiary in Myanmar, where it is one of the major operators, as a result of the military coup there.

July 08: Veteran diplomat Hardeep Singh Puri became India's new oil minister.

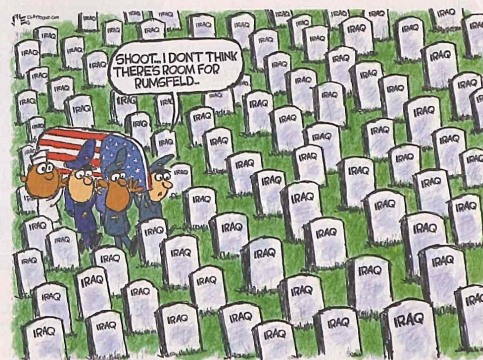
July 08: A Paris court accepted Cairn Energy's petition that Indian state-owned assets in the city worth over 20 million euros (\$24 million) be frozen.

July 09: Zaila Avant-garde, a teenager from Louisiana, became the first African-American winner of the national spelling contest, 93rd Scripps National Spelling Bee.

July 09: Matteo Berrettini became the first Italian to reach a Wimbledon singles final.

July 09: US President Joe Biden nominated Los Angeles mayor Eric Garcetti to be the US ambassador to India.

July 09: In a report titled 'The Hunger Virus Multiplies,' the anti-poverty organisation Oxfam said 11 people die of



hunger each minute and that the number facing famelike conditions around the globe has increased six times over the last year.

July 10: Ashleigh Barty won her first Wimbledon title.

July 10: Former Ipswich and England striker Paul Mariner died aged 68.

July 10: Vowing to reset the economy for the benefit of everyday workers and consumers, President Joe Biden unveiled a wide-ranging plan to tilt the balance of power away

from corporations and towards "the little guy."

July 10: G20 finance ministers gave their backing to a "historic" global deal to tax multinational companies more fairly and urged hold-out countries to sign up.

July 10: Haiti asked Washington and the UN for troops to secure its ports, airport and other strategic sites after the assassination of president Jovenel Moise.

July 11: Argentina defeated Brazil to win the Copa America 2021 final. The victory ended Argentina's 28-year wait for a major trophy, and also ended Brazil's unbeaten home record that stretched back more than 2,500 days.

July 11: Novak Djokovic won a record-equalling 20th Grand Slam title and sixth Wimbledon.

July 11: One of France's most famous medics Jean-Michel Dubernard, who undertook the world's first successful hand and face transplants, died at the age of 80.

July 11: Italy beat England 3-2 on penalties to win the Euro 2020 final.

July 12: The UN unveiled the first draft text that will form the heart of forthcoming summit negotiations aimed at preserving at least 30 percent of land and oceans and a host of other biodiversity targets.

July 12: During a visit to Moscow by US climate envoy John Kerry, US and Russia said they would cooperate on climate change despite strained relations.

July 12: The UN Human Rights Council adopted a resolution condemning human rights violations by Myanmar's military against the Rohingya and other minorities, and called for a process of reconciliation.

July 12: General Austin Scott Miller — the top US general in Afghanistan — relinquished command and handed it over to the Afghan government.

July 12: Nepal's top court ousted the sitting prime minister K. P. Sharma Oli and reinstated the dissolved parliament. The court said in its judgement that the main opposition leader

Sher Bahadur Deuba should replace Oli.

July 12: The world's deepest swimming pool for underwater diving opened in Dubai where people can descend 60 metres.

July 13: West Indian batsman Chris Gayle became the first player to score 14,000 runs in all T20 matches.

July 14: The Amazon founder Jeff Bezos went into space, potentially opening a door to space tourism.

July 14: The UAE opened its embassy in Israel.

July 14: The United States allowed Iran to use frozen funds to settle debts in South Korea and Japan.

July 14: Australia, the United States and allies opened large-

Rest in power, Kenneth Kaunda

Hero of the anti-colonial liberation struggle, first president of Zambia, and all-weather friend of China.

"China helped us to struggle for our independence. China helped many other countries in Africa to get their independence. Now they are working with us to help us develop our economies. That's what China is doing, helping us, as friends, genuine friends."



scale war games Talisman Sabre, which is held every two years in Australia.

July 14: Poland's Constitutional Court ruled that any interim measures issued by the EU Court of Justice against Poland's controversial judicial reforms were "not in line" with the Polish constitution, a ruling that government critics said puts a question mark over the country's future membership of the bloc.

July 15: The European Court of Justice ruled that employers can in principle ban staff from wearing headscarves in the workplace.

GK Tidbits

39. The two sides fighting the World War 2 were known as the Allies and: **The Axis**

40. The youngest and the oldest US secretary of defense was: **Donald Rumsfeld**

41. The current chief of the International Olympic Committee is: **Thomas Bach**

42. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights is: **Michelle Bachelet**

43. Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) is an affiliate research and degree-awarding institution of: **Planning Commission of Pakistan**

44. The biggest water reservoir of Pakistan is: **Mangla Dam**

45. The head of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (OCT) is: **Vladimir Voronkov**

46. The world's first binding treaty to prevent and combat violence against women is: **The Istanbul Convention**

47. The building of State Bank of Pakistan Museum was built by the Imperial Bank of India in: **1920**

48. SBP Museum's building was handed over to the SBP in: **1950**

49. Bagram Airbase is located in Afghanistan's province: **Parwan**

50. Koh-e-Sulaiman, (Takht-e-Sulaiman) mountain range is located between Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and: **Balochistan**

51. The number of Pakistan's ecological zones is: **12**

52. Pakistan's current Foreign Secretary is: **Sohail Mahmood**

53. Alexander Lukashenko is the president of: **Belarus**

54. The famous Lahore Fort was built in its present shape by Mughal emperor Akbar in: **1575AD**

55. The Ghazni rule over Lahore ended in: **1186AD**

56. The last Ghazni ruler of Lahore was: **Tajud-Daula Khusr Malik**

57. The Khiljis' rule in Lahore ended in 1321AD, followed by the Tughlaqs, who ruled till: **1412AD**

58. 'Hostility: A Diplomat's Diary on Pakistan-India Relations and More' has been written by: **Abdul Basit**

59. Shams-ul-Ulema Mirza Qaleech Baig is a famous personality in: **Sindhi language and literature**

60. US marked their nation's 245th birthday on: **July 4, 2021**

61. Bangla glacier is situated in upper Naltar valley

in: **Gilgit**

62. The first "Superman" movie was: **The Goonies**

63. Dr Henry Kissinger was special assistant to US president: **Richard Nixon**

64. Air Marshal (retired) Asghar Khan was the chief of a political party named: **Tehrik-i-Istaqlal**

65. Port-au-Prince is the capital and the largest city of: **Haiti**

66. The poorest country in the Americas is: **Haiti**

67. The first film of Dilip Kumar was: **Jwar Bhata (1944)**

68. Pakistan and Afghanistan had signed the APTTA in: **2010**

69. The Daral Khwar Hydropower Project is located in: **Swat**

70. The official residence of US ambassador in New Delhi is: **Roosevelt House**

71. Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam or GERD is being built on the river: **Blue Nile**

72. The Sea of Marmara, fabled for centuries for its blue waters and sparkling fish, laps the shores of: **Istanbul**

73. Kinshasa is the capital of: **DR Congo**

74. The current President of United Nations

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is: **Pakistani Ambassador Munir Akram**

75. US Central Command headquarters is located in: **Florida**

76. Afghanistan's National Security Adviser is: **Hamdullah Mohib**

77. Pakistan first participated at the Olympic Games in 1948 which were held in: **London**

78. Pakistan's first ever participation in the Winter Olympic Games was at: **Vancouver 2010**

79. The administrative capital of South Africa is: **Pretoria**

80. Kashmir Martyrs Day is observed on: **July 13**

81. Panjkora valley is located in: **Upper Dir district**

82. Pakistan has previously hosted the South Asian Games in 1989 and: **2004**

83. The 13th edition of the South Asian Games was held in: **Nepal**

84. The Pakistan Agricultural Storage and Services Corporation Limited (Passco) is headquartered in: **Lahore**

85. Hanna Lake is located in Urak Valley near:

Quetta

86. UET Lahore was initially established as the Mughalpura Technical College in: **1921**

87. Hanna Lake sits in a bowl surrounded by Quetta's eastern mountains, known as: **Koh-i-Murdar**

88. Warsaw is the capital of: **Poland**

89. Blue Origin was founded by: **Jeff Bezos**

90. Mannmoan Hussain was elected as the 12th President of Pakistan in: **July 2013**



91. Blue Origin's reusable rocket system is named: **Alan Shepard**

92. Portsmouth is a port city in southern England on the: **English Channel**

93. The European Court of Justice is located in: **Luxembourg City, Luxembourg**

94. Tahrir Square is located in: **Egypt**

95. Harappa lies on the left bank of a now dry course of the Ravi River near: **Sahiwal**

96. The person who officially renamed the Tsardom of Russia as the Russian Empire in 1721 and became its first emperor was: **Peter the Great**

97. Daughter of Destiny: An Autobiography was written by: **Benazir Bhutto**

98. Renowned humanist, diplomat, lawyer, theologian, jurist, poet and playwright Hugo Grotius belonged to: **The Netherlands**

99. Partition of Bengal was cancelled in: **1911**

100. Jean-Jacques Rousseau was born on 28 June 1712 in: **Geneva**

MCQs / NATIONAL

1. On June 16, Prime Minister Imran Khan inaugurated the newly established "Eagle Squad" of _____ Police.

- (a) Islamabad (b) Quetta
(c) Peshawar (d) Lahore

2. On June 16, Coca-Cola Beverages Pakistan Ltd announced to invest \$50 million in its greenfield project in _____ district of KP.

- (a) Charsadda (b) Nowshera
(c) Haripur (d) Peshawar

3. Total outlay of the KP budget 2021-22 is _____.

- (a) Rs1.098 tr (b) Rs1.118 tr
(c) Rs1.228 tr (d) Rs1.334 tr

4. On June 18, _____ became the first province to pass the 'Apprenticeship Act 2021' to provide skilled youth with better economic opportunities to the industry according to its specifications.

- (a) Punjab (b) Sindh
(c) Balochistan (d) KP

5. On June 21, the federal government notified _____ as Chairman National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra) for three years.

- (a) Tariq Malik (b) Usman Mubeen
(c) Tahir Hussain (d) Hasan Saleem

6. On _____, Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party leader and former senator Usman Khan Kakar passed away.

- (a) June 20 (b) June 21
(c) June 22 (d) June 23

7. On _____, the Council of Common Interest unanimously approved the National Electricity Policy 2021.

- (a) June 19 (b) June 20
(c) June 21 (d) June 22

8. On June 22, the government appointed _____ the executive director of the Asian Development Bank for a term of four years.

- (a) Noor Ahmed (b) Kamran Afzal
(c) Nosheen Gul (d) Abdul Basit

9. On June 24, PTI's _____ chief and provincial Education Minister Yar Mohammad Rind resigned.

- (a) KP (b) Sindh
(c) Gilgit-Baltistan (d) Balochistan

10. On June 24, _____ won their

maiden Pakistan Super League (PSL) title.

- (a) Karachi Kings (b) Peshawar Zalmi
(c) Multan Sultans (d) Quetta Gladiators

11. Multan Sultans defeated _____ in the final of the PSL 6.

- (a) Karachi Kings (b) Lahore Qalandars
(c) Peshawar Zalmi (d) Quetta Gladiators

12. On June 25, despite implementing _____ out of 27 action plans, the Financial Action Task Force decided to keep Pakistan on its grey list.

- (a) 22 (b) 23
(c) 24 (d) 26

13. Former caretaker prime minister Justice (R) Mir Hazar Khan Khoso passed away on _____.

- (a) June 26 (b) June 27
(c) June 28 (d) June 29

14. On June 27, a legendary television and stage actor Begum Khursheed Shahid, the mother of famous actor _____, died.

- (a) Shahid (b) Salman Shahid
(c) Shaan Shahid (d) Sajid Hassan

15. On June 28, Pakistan and the _____, signed a \$4.5 billion new framework agreement to finance oil, LNG and fertiliser imports in the next 3 years.

- (a) World Bank (b) IsDB
(c) ITFC (d) ADB

16. The National Assembly passed the Federal Budget with a majority vote on _____.

- (a) June 26 (b) June 27
(c) June 28 (d) June 29

17. The Federal Budget 2021-11 has a total outlay of _____.

- (a) Rs7.487 tr (b) Rs7.978 tr
(c) Rs8.180 tr (d) Rs8.487 tr

18. The current minimum wage in Pakistan is _____ per month.

- (a) Rs17,000 (b) Rs18,000
(c) Rs20,000 (d) Rs25,000

19. The annual Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for teh FY2021-22 is _____.

- (a) Rs800 billion (b) Rs900 billion
(c) Rs1000 billion (d) Rs1100 billion

20. For FY2021-22, the tax collection target has been set at _____.

- (a) Rs5,829 billion (b) Rs6,313 billion
(c) Rs6,829 billion (d) Rs7,431 billion

21. On _____, Maulana Abdur Razzaq Iskandar, eminent religious scholar and head of the Wifaqul Madaris Al-Arabia Pakistan, passed away

- (a) June 26 (b) June 28
(c) June 29 (d) June 30

22. According to FBR, an individual shall be required to be in Pakistan for a period in aggregate to _____ days or more in a tax year to become a resident.

- (a) 120 (b) 150
(c) 180 (d) 183

23. The in-camera meeting of the Parliamentary Committee on National Security was held at the National Assembly on _____.

- (a) June 29 (b) June 30
(c) July 01 (d) July 02

24. On July 01, the United States added Pakistan and _____ to its Child Soldiers Prevention Act (CSPA) list.

- (a) Iran (b) China
(c) Afghanistan (d) Turkey

25. State Bank of Pakistan Museum & Art Gallery was established in _____.

- (a) 2007 (b) 2009
(c) 2011 (d) 2012

26. On July 03, _____ Embassy launched the first-ever Academy of Women Entrepreneurs program in Pakistan.

- (a) Japanese (b) Chinese
(c) Italian (d) US

27. On July 05, Pakistan was ranked _____ in The Economist's Global Normalcy Index, out of 50 countries.

- (a) Second (b) Third
(c) Fourth (d) Ninth

28. On July 05, President Dr Arif Alvi conferred Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) award on Commander of _____ Land Forces, General Umit Dundar.

- (a) Turkish (b) Malaysian
(c) Uzbek (d) Indonesian

29. On July 06, Justice Muhammad Ameer Bhatti took oath as the _____ chief justice of Lahore High Court.

- (a) 51st (b) 52nd
(c) 53rd (d) 54th

30. On July 07, President Alvi appointed _____ the new governor of Balochistan

- (a) Yar Muhammad Rind
(b) Zahoor Ahmed Agha

- (c) Abdul Quddus Bezinjo
(d) Jam Yousaf Ali

31. On July 07, the Prime Minister appointed _____ his special assistant on reconciliation and harmony in Balochistan.

- (a) Naimatullah Khan Zehri
(b) Shahzain Bugti
(c) Mir Khan Muhammad Jamali
(d) Sanaullah Zehri

32. On July 08, a huge statue of renowned social worker Abdul Sattar Edhi was installed at the famous Hockey Chowk in _____.

- (a) Karachi (b) Bahawalpur
(c) Lahore (d) Quetta

33. On July 10, _____ and the Unicef signed an agreement to launch the 'Balochistan Education Support' (BES), a five-year education development programme for which it will provide 17.4 million euros.

- (a) Japan (b) China
(c) AIB (d) EU

34. Naveed Alam, former hockey Olympian and a member of Pakistan's winning team in the 1994 World Cup, passed away on _____.

- (a) July 11 (b) July 12
(c) July 13 (d) July 14

35. The 14th edition of the South Asian Games will be held in Pakistan's cities of Lahore, Sialkot, Faisalabad, _____ and Islamabad.

- (a) Gujrat (b) Gujranwala
(c) Rawalpindi (d) Multan

36. On July 13, PML-Q's Moonis Elahi was appointed the federal minister for _____.

- (a) Water Resources
(b) Economic Affairs
(c) Defence Production
(d) Housing and Works

37. On July 13, _____, a retired grade 22 officer of Secretariat Group, assumed responsibilities as the ECP secretary, on contractual basis.

- (a) Mohsin Butt (b) Aqeel Turabi
(c) Salman Khilji (d) Umer Hameed

38. Former president and PML-N central leader Mamnoon Hussain passed away on _____.

- (a) July 11 (b) July 12
(c) July 13 (d) July 14

39. On July 15, _____ announced a

new immigration policy and allowed Pakistanis visa-on-arrival facility.

- (a) Qatar (b) Iran
(c) Saudi Arabia (d) Kazakhstan

40. On July 15, Pakistan and _____ signed the Heads of Terms (HoT) and Shareholders Agreement (SHA) on the project of 1,100-kilometer Pakistan Stream Gas Pipeline from Karachi to Kasur.

- (a) Uzbekistan (b) Russia
(c) Tajikistan (d) China

INTERNATIONAL

1. On June 16, Lina Khan, a Pakistani-origin woman, was sworn in as the head of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) of the _____.

- (a) United States (b) Canada
(c) Switzerland (d) UK

2. On June 16, Russian President Vladimir Putin and his US counterpart, Joe Biden, held a summit meeting in _____.

- (a) Athens (b) Geneva
(c) Bonn (d) Helsinki

3. On June 17, former _____ president Kenneth Kaunda, a hero of the struggle against white rule in southern Africa, died aged 97.

- (a) South African (b) Kenyan
(c) Zambian (d) Zimbabwean

4. On June 18, _____ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau nominated Justice Mahmud Jamal as the next member of his country Supreme Court - the first non-white judge to take the seat.

- (a) Swiss (b) Belgian
(c) Swedish (d) Canadian

5. On June 18, Antonio Guterres was sworn in as UN Secretary-General for a second term that will start from _____.

- (a) Aug. 28, 2021 (b) Sep. 11, 2021
(c) Dec. 01, 2021 (d) Jan. 01, 2022

6. On _____, India's track legend Milkha Singh, a four-time Asian Games gold medallist who was dubbed the 'Flying Sikh', died.

- (a) June 16 (b) June 17
(c) June 18 (d) June 19

7. On June 21, _____ Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan scored a decisive victory in snap parliamentary

elections.

- (a) Armenian (b) Belarusian
(c) Belgian (d) Polish

8. On June 21, Stefan Lofven became _____ first prime minister to lose a no-confidence vote.

- (a) Belgium's (b) Sweden's
(c) Latvia's (d) Italy's

9. On June 21, _____ weightlifter Laurel Hubbard was selected as the first transgender Olympic athlete.

- (a) New Zealand (b) Australian
(c) Canadian (d) Ethiopian

10. On June 22, _____ capital Ashgabat was declared the world's most expensive city for foreign workers in the 2021 Mercer survey.

- (a) Iraq's (b) Turkmenistan's
(c) Somalia's (d) Tajikistan's

11. On June 22, Keshav Maharaj completed just the second hat-trick by a _____ in Test history.

- (a) Sri Lankan (b) Indian
(c) South African (d) West Indian

12. On June 22, the Committee to Protect Journalists announced to honour Jimmy Lai, the imprisoned founder of Apple Daily newspaper of _____, with the 2021 Gwen Ifill Press Freedom Award.

- (a) Singapore (b) Taiwan
(c) Macau (d) Hong Kong

13. On June 23, _____ beat India in the inaugural World Test Championship final.

- (a) England (b) Australia
(c) South Africa (d) New Zealand

14. On June 24, the world's highest luxury hotel and the _____ tallest building in the world, Shanghai Tower, opened in Shanghai, China.

- (a) Second (b) Third
(c) Fifth (d) Ninth

15. On _____, India's prime minister Narendra Modi held a crucial meeting with pro-India politicians from Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K).

- (a) June 22 (b) June 24
(c) June 26 (d) June 28

16. On June 25, former Minneapolis Police officer _____ was sentenced to 22 and a half years in jail for murdering African American George Floyd.

- (a) **Derek Chauvin** (b) Jounnee Howard
(c) Keith Ellison (d) Peter Cahill

17. Bundestag is the lower house of _____ parliament.

- (a) Russian (b) French
(d) **German** (c) Spanish

18. UK Health Secretary Matt Hancock, who resigned on June 26, was replaced by _____.

- (a) Ben Wallace (b) **Sajid Javid**
(c) Priti Patel (d) Dominic Raab

19. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan launched the start of construction on Istanbul Canal on _____.

- (a) June 24 (b) June 25
(c) **June 26** (d) June 28

20. On June 27, the _____ announced its new Climate Change Action Plan that aims to deliver record levels of climate finance to developing countries

- (a) EU (b) UNEP
(c) AIIB (d) **World Bank**

21. On June 28, _____ and the United States launched joint naval exercises in the Black Sea.

- (a) Philippines (b) South Korea
(c) Japan (d) **Ukraine**

22. On June 28, _____ federal government declared a 'unilateral ceasefire' in its war-torn Tigray region.

- (a) Somalia's (b) Kenya's
(c) **Ethiopia's** (d) South Sudan's

23. On June 29, Israel's foreign minister Yair Lapid opened the Jewish state's first embassy in Gulf in _____.

- (a) Dubai (b) **Abu Dhabi**
(c) Muscat (d) Manama

24. On _____, Donald H. Rumsfeld, the Secretary of Defense for Presidents Gerald R. Ford and George W. Bush, who presided over America's Cold War strategies in the 1970s and, in the new world of terrorism decades later, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, died.

- (a) **June 30** (b) July 01
(c) July 02 (d) July 03

25. On June 30, _____ was certified as malaria-free by the WHO, following a 70-year effort to eradicate the disease.

- (a) **China** (b) India

- (c) Vietnam (d) Mexico

26. On July 01, Iran's supreme leader named former intelligence and security minister Gholamhossein Mohseni-Ejei as head of the country's judiciary, replacing _____.

- (a) Mohammad Yazdi (b) **Ebrahim Raisi**
(c) Alireza Jamshidi (d) Sadeq Larijani

27. American forces vacated the Bagram Airbase — their main military base in Afghanistan on _____.

- (a) July 01 (b) **July 02**
(c) July 03 (d) July 04

28. On July 04, _____ astronauts successfully performed the country's first tandem spacewalk.

- (a) Indian (b) Japanese
(c) French (d) **Chinese**

29. On July 06, Canada named _____ as its first indigenous governor general — Queen Elizabeth II's official representative in the Commonwealth country.

- (a) Julie Payette (b) David Johnston
(c) Michaëlle Jean (d) **Mary Simon**

30. On July 07, the huge container ship MV Ever Given, which blocked the Suez Canal for six days in _____ this year, finally steamed out of the waterway.

- (a) January (b) February
(c) **March** (d) April

31. On July 07, _____ President Jovenel Moise was assassinated in an attack at his home.

- (a) Sweden's (b) **Haiti's**
(c) Mexico's (d) Vietnam's

32. On _____, Dilip Kumar, one of Bollywood's most accomplished and respected film stars, died aged 98.

- (a) **July 07** (b) July 08
(c) July 09 (d) July 10

33. On July 08, _____ telecom group Telenor announced to sell its subsidiary in Myanmar.

- (a) **Norwegian** (b) Italian
(c) Swedish (d) Danish

34. On July 09, US President Joe Biden nominated _____ to be the US ambassador to India.

- (a) Richard Verma (b) **Eric Garcetti**
(c) Donald Heflin (d) Kenneth Juster

35. On July 09, a report titled as "The Hunger Virus Multiplies," was released by _____-based anti-poverty organisation Oxfam.

- (a) London (b) Oxford
(c) **Nairobi** (d) New York

36. On July 11, Argentina defeated _____ to win the Copa América 2021 final.

- (a) Peru (b) Uruguay
(c) Colombia (d) **Brazil**

37. On July 11, _____ beat England on penalties to win the Euro 2020 final.

- (a) Germany (b) France
(c) Sweden (d) **Italy**

38. On _____, General Austin Scott Miller — the top US general in Afghanistan — relinquished command and handed it over to the Afghan government.

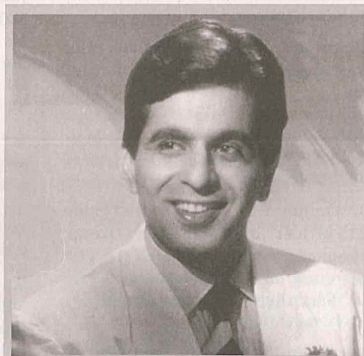
- (a) July 10 (b) July 11
(c) **July 12** (d) July 14

39. On July 14, Australia, the United States and allies opened large-scale war games Talisman Sabre, which is held every two years in _____.

- (a) Venezuela (b) **Australia**
(c) South Korea (d) Japan

40. The UAE opened its embassy in Israel on _____.

- (a) July 12 (b) July 13
(c) **July 14** (d) July 15

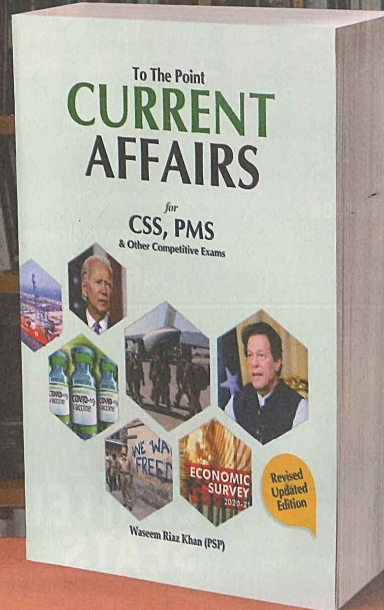
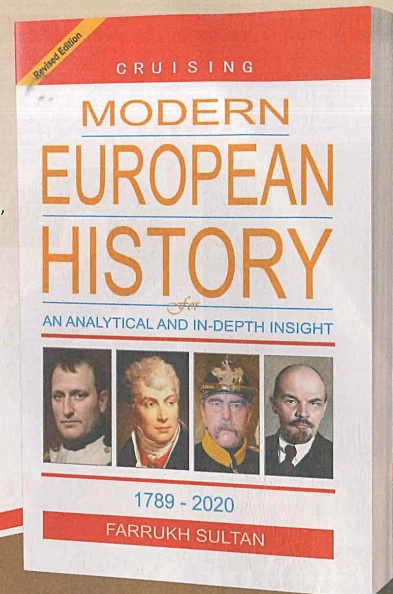


RIP DILIP KUMAR

11 December 1922 – 07 July 2021

Key Features

- The French Revolution
- Impact of Napoleonic Period
- Congress of Vienna
- Concert of Europe
- Forces of Continuity and Change in Europe – Liberalism, Nationalism, Romanticism, Conservatism and Socialism
- Impact of Industrialisation, Imperialism and Colonialism
- Unification of Italy
- Unification of Germany
- The Bismarckian System of Alliances, the Congress of Berlin
- World War I, the Treaty of Versailles & the League of Nations
- Communist Revolution in Russia
- Fascism in Italy
- Rise of Nazism in Germany
- World War II & Creation of the United Nations
- The Cold War, the Reunification of Germany & Creation of Modern European Union
- Brexit and the Impact of Covid-19 on Europe



HIGHLIGHTS

- Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on Pakistan and Mitigation Measures
 - China-Pakistan Economic Corridor
 - Foreign Policy of Pakistan and Present Challenges
 - National Digital Policy of Pakistan
 - Promoting Tourism in Pakistan
 - Afghanistan Reconciliation Process
 - Arab-Israel Deals: Implications & Reactions
 - B3W vs BRI
 - Global Implications of Covid-19 Pandemic
 - Pakistan-US Relations under Biden Administration
 - Kashmir Conflict
 - US-India Relations in the age of Modi and Biden
 - Global Challenges in 2021—Reshaping World
- ...& much more

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